

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
KUDAT and SANDAKAN.....	"BORNEO" Capt. F. Sembli	End of June.
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and BREMEN.....	"KLEIST" Capt. Rud Meyer	WEDNESDAY, Noon, 1st July.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, and YOKOHAMA	"PRINZ LUDWIG" Capt. F. v. Blüser	About WEDNESDAY, 1st July.
MANILA, NEWGUINEA, BRIS- BANE, SYDNEY and MEL- BOURNE.....	"PRINZ WALDEMAR" Capt. W. v. Senden	THURSDAY, 5 P.M., 16th July.

For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 25th June, 1908.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE TO and FROM EUROPE via SUEZ CANAL.
TO and FROM JAPAN via SHANGHAI.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SAIL ON
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA.....	TOURNAI.....	Lancelotti	6th July, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	POLYNESIE.....	Martini	7th July, at 1 P.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA.....	ARMAND BEHIC.....	Guionnet	20th July, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	CALÉDONIEN.....	Lemonnier	21st July, P.M.

Transshipment on the Co.'s Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black Sea.
Through Tickets to London via Paris from £27.10 up to £27.10. 20 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.
Interpreters meet passengers at their arrival in Marseilles.
For further particulars, apply to

P. NALIN,

ACTING AGENT,

QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 23rd June, 1908.

CHARGEURS RÉUNIS.

FRENCH STEAMSHIP Co.—HEAD OFFICE: PARIS.

ALL ROUND THE WORLD LINE.

Outward: ANTWERP, DUNKIRK, LA PALlice, MARSEILLES, GENOA, NAPLES, COLOMBO, VIA SUEZ, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, CHINA, WANTAO (Peking, Tientsin), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, GENOA to HONGKONG in 30 DAYS, NARLES 29.

Unique opportunity to make a tour in North-China and Japan with the Greatest Speed, Safety and Comfort.

Trans-Pacific: VICTORIA (B.C.), VANCOUVER, SEATTLE, SAN FRANCISCO.

Connecting with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

FREIGHT to OVERLAND

PASSENGERS to OVERLAND and EUROPE via VANCOUVER.

YOKOHAMA—VANCOUVER.....15 Days.

LONDON and PARIS

Homeward: MEXICO, RIVER PLATE, BRAZIL, LA PALlice, LIVERPOOL, VIA MAGELLAN STRAITS.

Proposed Sailings:

* AMIRAL EXELMANS.....25th July.	* CHELAN.....26th Nov.
* OUESANT.....27th Aug.	* CORSE.....11th Jan.
* MALTE.....12th Oct.	

No passengers. * Intermediate class and rates of passage.
New Twin Screw 16,000 T. displac. 1st class accommodation, splendidly equipped, with single berth cabins. All round the world ticket by these boats.
For further Particulars, apply to

P. NALIN, FRENCH MAIL OFFICE.

Hongkong, 4th June, 1908.

WEST RIVER BRITISH STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

HONGKONG-WUCHOW LINE.

THE Steamers "LINTAN" and "SAN-UI" sail from HONGKONG TWICE A WEEK AND COME THE ROUND TRIP IN 4 DAYS. These steamers have Excellent Saloon Accommodation, and are Lighted Throughout by Electricity. THE CLIMATE ON THE WEST RIVER DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IS VERY FINE AND EXHILARATING.

For further information apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

AGENTS, WEST RIVER BRITISH S.S. COMPANIES.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1908.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

No. 1 DOCK.	No. 2 DOCK.
Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 85 ft., bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.	Length inside, 375 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft., bottom 45.5 ft. Water on blocks, 28.5 ft. Time to pump out, 3 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyd's surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Towboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 35 tons.

Steam Lanches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 376, 508, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. O. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebers, Scotts, A. 1, and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1905.

Shipping—Steamers.

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.
REGULAR THREE-WEEKLY SERVICE
BETWEEN
JAVA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

Steamer.	From	Expected on or about	Will leave for	On or about
TJILATJAP...	AMOV.	Second half June	JAVA	Second half June
TJIBODAS...	JAVA	Second half June	JAPAN	Second half June
TJIMAH...	JAVA	Second half June	SHANGHAI	Second half June
TJILIWONG.	JAVA	Second half June	JAPAN	First half July
TJIPANAS...	JAVA	First half July	SHANGHAI	First half July
TJIKINI...	JAVA	Second half July	JAPAN	Second half July

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have Accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers, and will take Cargo to all Netherlands India Ports on through Bills of Lading.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

Telephone No. 376,
YORK BUILDINGS, 1st floor,
Hongkong, 18th June, 1908.

MESSAGERIES CANTONNAISES.

FRENCH LINE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN HONGKONG, CANTON AND KOUANG-SI.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,900 tons, 14 knots,
S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.

The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line.
Departure from Hongkong at 10 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).
Departure from Canton at 5 P.M. (Sundays excepted).

These superb steamers carrying the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.
The Company's Own Wharf near Wing Lok Street.
Canton Agents—Messrs. E. Pasquet & Co.
For further particulars, please apply to—

BARRETTO & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1908.

Notice of Firm

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR

and

EXPRESS TRAINS Co.

(THE

GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE

TO EUROPE)

Dentistry

TSIN TING.

LATEST METHODS OF DENTISTRY.

STUDIO AT NO. 14, D'AGUIAR STREET.

REASONABLE FEE.

Consultation Free.

Hongkong, 20th June, 1904.

WEATHER-FORCASTS AND STORM-WARNINGS ISSUED FROM THE HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

METEOROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

Meteorological signals are hoisted on the mast in front of the Water Police Station at Tsim Sha Tsui for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port. They do not necessarily imply that bad weather is expected here.

Signal No.

1. A CONE point upwards indicates a Typhoon to the North of the Colony.

2. A CONE point upwards and 1/4 U.M. below indicates a Typhoon to the North-East of the Colony.

3. A DRUM indicates a Typhoon to the East of the Colony.

4. A CONE point downwards and DRUM below indicates a Typhoon to the South-East of the Colony.

5. A CONE point downwards indicates a Typhoon to the South of the Colony.

6. A CONE point downwards and BALL below indicates a Typhoon to the South-West of the Colony.

7. A BALL indicates a Typhoon to the West of the Colony.

8. A CONE point upwards and BALL below indicates a Typhoon to the North-West of the Colony.

Red Signals indicate that the centre is believed to be more than 300 miles away from the Colony.

Black Signal. Indicate that the centre is believed to be less than 300 miles away from the Colony.

The above signals will, as heretofore, be hoisted only when typhoons exist in such positions or are moving in such directions that information regarding them is considered to be of importance to the Colony or to shipping leaving the harbour.

These signals are repeated at the Harbour Office, H.M.S. Tamar, Green Island Signal Mast, and the Flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon.

URGENT SIGNAL.

In addition to the above, when it is expected that the wind may increase to full typhoon force at any moment, the following Urgent Signal will be made at the Water Police Station, and repeated at the Harbour Office—

THREE EXPLOSIVE BOMBS, AT INTERVALS OF TEN SECONDS.

A Black Cross will be hoisted at the same time, superior to the other shapes.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

The following Night Signals will be exhibited from the Flagstaff on the roof of the Water Police Station at Kowloon, the Harbour Office Flagstaff, and H.M.S. Tamar.

I. Three Lights Vertical, Green Green Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated more than 300 miles from the Colony.

II. Three Lights Vertical, Green Red Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated less than 300 miles from the Colony.

III. Three Lights Vertical, Red Green Red, indicates that the wind may be expected to increase to full typhoon force at any moment.

No. III. Signal will be accompanied by the Explosive Bombs, as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being published by night.

These Night Signals will be substituted the Day Signals at sunset, and will, when necessary, be altered during the night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

For the benefit of Native Craft and passing Ocean Vessels, a Cone will be exhibited at each of the following stations during the time that any of the above Day Signals are hoisted in the Harbour.

Cape Rock. Aberdeen.

Waglan. Sai Ki Wan.

Stanley. Sai Kung.

Cape Collinson. Sha Tau Kok.

Tai Po.

This will indicate that there is a depression somewhere in the China Sea, and that a Storm Warning is hoisted in the Harbour.

Further details can always be given to Ocean Vessels, on demand, by signal from the Light-houses.

F. G. Fido, Director.

14th Feb. 1907.

Real Estate.

GODOWN No. 5A, DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 8th May, 1908.

Intimations.

Wm. Powell, Ltd.,

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

Everything
for
Ladies' and
Children's
Wear.

Specialists
in
Tropical
Clothing.

GENTLEMEN'S
DEPARTMENT,
28, Queen's Road.

Ideas
for
Summer
Wear.

Coollest
Showrooms
in the
East.

Wm. POWELL,
LTD.,
General Drapers,
Furnishers,
Des Vaux Road,
and
28, Queen's Road,
HONGKONG.

H. K. 1908, 21st June 1908

Auction.

ALFRED HERBERT RENNIE, Deceased.

SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY.

THE TRUSTEE IN BANKRUPTCY of the Estate of the above Deceased invites offers for the purchase by private treaty of the undermentioned property, viz.:

ALL THAT PIECE or PARCEL of GROUND situate at Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong containing an area of 19,500 square feet and known and registered in the Land Office as Island Lot No. 1,533 held under a Crown Lease for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years from the 9th day of April, 1911, at the annual Crown rent of \$552 Together also with all that substantially built residence standing on the said Piece or Parcel of Ground or on some part thereof known as "The Firs."

The residence is exceptionally well situated on an elevation close to the junction of the Magazine Gap and Bowen Roads and close to the Bowen Road Tram Station.

The House is a fine two-storied building containing every modern convenience.

The Building contains large Basement and well arranged Laundry.

On Ground floor—Drawing Room, Billiard Room (full size) and Dining Room, Kitchen and other usual offices.

On First Floor—Two large Bed Rooms with Bath Rooms adjoining; Boudoir and Dressing Room.

The Out-buildings include Stabling and a Fine Swimming Bath.

The Out-offices and Coolie Quarters are conveniently situated and exceptionally well built.

The Grounds and Garden, which are well laid out, include a Grass Tennis Court and are large enough to allow for a considerable extension of the present buildings.

Offers to be sent to—

Messrs. JOHNSON, STOKES and MASTER, 8 Des Vaux Road Central, Hongkong.

Solicitors for the Trustee in Bankruptcy of the Estate of the late A. H. RENNIE, Deceased.

Hongkong, 10th June, 1908. [583]

Intimations.

MUSIC LESSON.

LESSONS in Violin, Mandoline and Guitar at pupils' residence.

Evening engagements for Dances and Concerts.

Apply to—

E. J. LOPES,

C/o Hongkong Telegraph Office

Hongkong, 9th March, 1908. [502]

A. CHAZALON & CO.,
6, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

A FRESH supply of French and English preserves just to hand.

TRUFFLED SAUSAGE,

BREAKFAST BACON,

C L P'S HEAD & HAM,

PEAS & HAM,

PORC, MUTTON & VEAL CUTLETS,

CHICKEN & HAM,

VEAL & GAME PATES,

MUTTON & CHICKEN CURRY,

ASSORTED SOUPS,

FRENCH JAM &

FRUITS IN SYRUP, &c.

Hongkong, 8th May, 1908. [535]

LEE YEE

HAIR DRESSING SALOON.

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND

CIGARS, CIGARETTES

AND

TOILET REQUISITES

FOR SALE.

12, DAUGHTER STREET,

HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 3rd September, 1907. [544]

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY.

TRADE THERAPION MARK.

This successful and highly popular remedy, used in Continental Hospitals by Ricord, Roussin, Jolyet, &c., is a medicine of the kind, and one of the best, which has been discovered in the world.

THERAPION No. 1 is a remarkably short time, often a few days only, to remove all the causes of disease, and to restore the system to its normal state, and to prevent the return of the disease. It is a medicine of the kind, and one of the best, which has been discovered in the world.

THERAPION No. 2 is a remarkably short time, often a few days only, to remove all the causes of disease, and to restore the system to its normal state, and to prevent the return of the disease. It is a medicine of the kind, and one of the best, which has been discovered in the world.

THERAPION No. 3 is a remarkably short time, often a few days only, to remove all the causes of disease, and to restore the system to its normal state, and to prevent the return of the disease. It is a medicine of the kind, and one of the best, which has been discovered in the world.

THERAPION is a remarkably short time, often a few days only, to remove all the causes of disease, and to restore the system to its normal state, and to prevent the return of the disease. It is a medicine of the kind, and one of the best, which has been discovered in the world.

Sold by all Chemists [545]

SPINNING MACHINERY IN CONTRACTS.

During the boom in the spinning industry after the war, there was considerable extension of mills, and not a few new companies were formed, the machinery required for the extension of mills or for the new companies being chiefly ordered from abroad through the medium of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. In some cases the time for taking delivery of the machinery has already arrived, and in other cases the time is approaching, but the depression in the yarn market of late has rendered it very difficult for the companies to take delivery of the machinery. We learn from the *Asahi* that not a few companies are asking the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha to cancel the orders. Among the companies making this request are the Fukushima and Tokyo Spinning Companies, each of which ordered machinery and plant for 40,000 spindles, and the Shimizu Spinning Company, whose order amounted to 20,000 spindles. This machinery and plant are ordered under the guarantee of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, and the orders have been chiefly placed with Messrs. Platt, the well-known British manufacturers of spinning machinery. It is remarked that in the event of the English manufacturers refusing to cancel the contracts, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha may be compelled to take measures against the Japanese companies to enforce delivery. In that case the spinning companies will have to make a further call on the new shares for the purpose of paying for the machinery. Should any of the spinning companies fail to take delivery of the machinery, it will follow that the bargain money paid in advance will be forfeited, but on account of the absence of precedent, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha is experiencing difficulty in determining the amount of damages to be claimed. The Mitsui is thus experiencing the burdens that in the past fell mainly on foreign firms. It is evident that in all branches of trade, Japanese import merchants are placed in a very trying position, and the Yokohama Specie Bank is involved in many difficulties in connection with its exchange business. — *Japan Chronicle*.

CHINA'S MILITARY STUDENTS.

The following telegram has been sent to *The Times* by Dr. Morrison:

Peking, June 12.

Next Sunday another contingent of fifteen selected cadets, twelve Chinese, two Mongols and one Manchurian from the military colleges of Peking, Nanking and Wuchang, will leave Peking for France to undergo complete military training for a period of five and a half years. The average age of the cadets is seventeen. They will proceed via Siberia, first to the Prytanee military school at La Flèche in the department of Sarthe, where they will take the places of a previous contingent of fifteen students, whose departure from Peking for a similar training was recorded in *The Times* on April 2, 1907. Excellent reports have been received of the progress and conduct of the first detachment. As before, special facilities are granted by the French Government and all expenses are defrayed by the Chinese Ministry of War. The allowances for each student are Frs. 2,000 per annum. The details are similar to those arranged for the first contingent by Colonel Tinge, at present Judge Advocate-General of the Ministry of War, who studied law for some years at Lincoln's Inn and was one of the representatives of China at the Hague Conference, and by Major Brissaud, the French military attaché. The dispatch of similar bodies of picked cadets to France promises to become an annual event.

The question now naturally arises whether the British Government might not assist in this commendable movement of the Ministry of War and encourage the sending of similar bodies of Chinese students to British schools; and whether, also, it would not be wise greatly to extend the system of training Chinese naval officers on board British ships, introduced by Admiral Moore, the recent Commander-in-Chief of this station, and to permit a substantial increase of the number of Chinese undergoing training in the British Navy. From Chinese qualified to speak I hear nothing but praise of the help in this direction given by Admiral Moore, who, moreover, during the trying times in connection with the Canton delta trouble, so acted that he has left behind him in China a reputation for justice, fairness and sympathetic dealing, and is praised by the Chinese authorities as highly in Canton as in Peking.

DECISION IN THE THAW CASE.

THAW DETAINED.

London, May 26.

A New York correspondent says:—

Public opinion will cordially approve the decision of Judge Morchauer, delivered this morning in the *Albany* proceedings taken at Poughkeepsie for the release of Thaw from Matteawan Asylum. The Judge finds that Thaw is insane, and holds that his commitment as a criminal lunatic was legal. The decision appraises at its proper value the evidence of some of the lunacy experts, who testified at the murder trial that Thaw was insane and at Poughkeepsie that he was sane. The Judge puts the matter plainly. As Thaw has escaped the consequences of slaying Stanford White by reason of his existing mental condition, he does not deem it proper to allow him his freedom. The safety of the public is better ensured by his remaining in custody and under observation until he has recovered or until it is reasonably certain that there is no danger of a recurrence of his delusion or whatever it may be. Though Mr. Jerome has triumphed, it is too much to hope that the matter is ended or that Thaw's counsel will abandon their efforts to obtain his freedom.

JAPANESE WOMEN ABROAD.

UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITY IN MANCHURIA.

From reports submitted by the Japanese Consuls abroad the total number of male Japanese at the end of 1907, in all parts of the world exclusive of Japan is estimated at 91,207 and that of females at 37,191, making a total of 128,398. This number, classified according to the leading countries of residence, is as follows:—

	Males	Females	Inclusive
Hawaii	19,630	72,082	
Manchuria and North China	10,028	24,991	
South China	3,753	10,957	
Vladivostok	1,795	3,660	
Canada	1,124	7,691	
United States	300	568	
Australia	173	3,363	
India	218	217	
Mexico	119	1,087	
Siam	63	160	
England	33	359	
France	17	123	
Belgium	14	42	
Russia	9	48	
South America	9	63	
Austria	5	27	
Switzerland	4	7	
Germany	3	75	
Italy	2	15	

* These figures, which are taken from a Japanese paper, are evidently incorrect. — Editor J. C.

As shown above, a large number of Japanese women are in Hawaii, but the majority of these are members of the families of Japanese immigrants. For evidence of the remarkable activity shown by Japanese women of dubious character we must look in the direction of Manchuria, North China, and Vladivostok. The numbers of this class of women in comparison with those having a respectable station in life, as returned in the Consular reports, are given below:—

	Total number of Women	Women of dubious character
Aktion	1,115	604
Takoshan	27	17
Mukden	1,377	796
Tieling	981	503
Chanchung	500	323
Harbin	459	432
Vladivostok	1,795	1,743

It is only just to say that every endeavour is made by the authorities of this country to prevent the number of Japanese women abroad of doubtful character from being increased. — *Japan Chronicle*.

Intimations.

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 a.m.	
7.30 a.m.	9.30 a.m. ...Every 10 minutes
9.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m. ...Every 15 minutes
11.30 a.m.	12.45 p.m. ...Every 15 minutes
12.45 p.m.	1.15 p.m. ...Every 10 minutes
1.15 p.m.	1.45 p.m. ...Every 15 minutes
1.45 p.m.	2.15 p.m. ...Every 10 minutes
2.15 p.m.	3.00 p.m. ...Every 15 minutes
3.30 p.m.	5.00 p.m. ...Every 15 minutes
5.00 p.m.	8.00 p.m. ...Every 10 minutes

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

TAXATION.

NO INCREASE IN FUTURE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 25th June.

The Grand Councilors have received instructions from the Empress Dowager that, in future, no matter what happens, no increase in the burden of taxation will be sanctioned.

PARLIAMENT FOR CHINA.

DATE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 25th June.

The Grand Councilors have met on several occasions for the purpose of discussing the date when a Parliament for China will be instituted. It is stated that the date for the granting of constitutional government will be made known in a month's time.

DISMISSED OFFICIALS.

APPEAL FOR REINSTATEMENT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 25th June.

Several hundred officials in the two Kwang Provinces, who had been dismissed from office, have sent representatives to Peking to present a petition to the Ministry of Justice for their reinstatement. The memorial has been refused.

INCREASE IN PRICE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 25th June.

The Board of Revenue has received Imperial authority to increase the price of salt in various provinces.

Persia.

Fighting at Teheran.

London, 24th June.

Later.

Obituary.

The death of Mr. Grover Cleveland, ex-president of the United States of America, is announced.

THE TIENTSIN-PUKOU RAILWAY.

A Peking correspondent writes:—Under instructions from the President of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, Tsoai Li Teh-chue (who speaks and writes German fluently), Managing Director of the northern section of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, has purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of the city station of the Imperial Railways of North China at Tientsin for the erection of a station, goods yard, store and workshop.

A similar site has also been purchased by Viceroy Tuan Fang, for the same purposes, at Pukou. The land bought by Tsoai Li Teh-chue measures about 800mow in area and the construction works will be commenced shortly under the direction of Mr. Dörmüller, chief engineer for the German section, who has left Tientsin for Shantung to survey the route in company with the Managing Director in order that the building of the line may be begun within six months—i.e., in August next—as stipulated in the agreement signed on February 13, 1908.

A JAPANESE priest, by name Ama, had a very annoying experience yesterday. He arrived in Hongkong from Macao, yesterday, by the steamer Su-mi. His pockets were bulging, and this caused some suspicion in the mind of a police officer, who called Ama to turn them out. The holy man pulled out a revolver and thirty rounds of ammunition, for which he had no permit to carry. He was halted before Mr. J. H. Kemp, in the Police Court, this morning, and pleading guilty, was bound over, in the sum of \$50 to come up for judgment when called.

INSPECTOR WARMOCK'S RETIREMENT.

FIRST MAGISTRATE'S COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

Inspector W. G. Warmock, one of the most popular members of the Hongkong Police Force, leaves for the Homeland to-morrow by the P. and O. steamer Arcadia on a well-earned pension, with twenty-three years' service to his credit.

Mr. J. H. Kemp (police magistrate) took the opportunity this morning of addressing a few complimentary remarks to the genial inspector on the eve of his departure. The court-room was crowded with spectators, among whom were Mr. J. R. Wood (second police magistrate) and Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse (deputy superintendent of police).

Mr. Kemp, speaking for himself and his colleagues (Mr. Wood said that he was very glad that the time had arrived for Mr. Warmock to receive his pension, for which he had worked hard during his lengthy service in the Police Force, but he regretted to have to part with him). He was glad to record his appreciation of the officer's good work, the impartiality with which he conducted his cases which he brought before the Court, and his fairness towards the prisoners. Mr. Kemp then proceeded to cite examples of the magnanimity displayed by the police in Hongkong in settling their cases. Of course, it was the duty of the police to deal fairly with prisoners, and he was sure that the police officers of Hongkong were not lacking in this respect. The public, he observed, did not realize the good work that was being done by the Police Force. As a member of the local constabulary Inspector Warmock had shown tact, energy and ability in the performance of his duties—a matter which England should be proud of. He wished him a happy voyage and long life in the Homeland—the sentiments of everyone who knew the gentleman.

Mr. Warmock, in a few words, thanked Mr. Kemp for his kind remarks, and the pleasing function terminated.

THE "TENYO MARU."

QUICK PASSAGE TO HONOLULU.

This splendid new steamer of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha fleet left Hongkong on June 2nd on her maiden trip, arriving at Keelung on June 3rd at 3 p.m. an average speed of 18 knots per hour. From Keelung to Shanghai she reached at an average of nearly 19 knots, and this speed was maintained to Nagasaki. She left Yokohama on June 15th with a cargo of 6,750 tons, including 1,900 bales of silk and 38,450 cases of tea, and a total of 302 passengers. A cable has been received stating that she arrived at Honolulu on the 23rd inst., making the trip from Hongkong to Honolulu in the quick time of 8 days 5 hours.

CHINA AND THE HAGUE.

THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

It will, perhaps, be remembered that shortly after the conclusion of the 1st Hague Peace Conference, H. F. Chen Han, Chinese Minister in Holland, presented to the Throne a memorial in which he suggested an early preparation on the part of China for participating in the next conference, which is fixed for 1914. We now learn from Peking that, in response to the memorial, a conference which lasted for three days was recently held at the Langchêng-yuan by the Prince, the Minister and other high officials of the Central Government, to determine what efforts should be made to prepare for the next Conference. Some time in March last instructions were sent by the Central Government to the Viceroy and Governors of the different provinces asking them to submit proposals to be brought up for discussion at the next Conference, and to recommend legal experts and diplomats well acquainted with conditions prevailing in foreign countries for the task of bringing into order the legal and political systems of China, so that she may take position as a first-class Power at the next Conference. But, as neither experts had been recommended nor proposals sent to Peking, it was decided again to instruct the officials concerned to obey orders without further delay, as notice of the subjects to be discussed has to be sent out two years prior to the opening of the Conference. The following are some of the subjects discussed at the recent meeting at the Langchêng-yuan, which will be brought up by China at the next Conference:—

(1) In litigation any Christian converts ought to be treated exactly in the same manner as ordinary subjects without any distinctions as to who is a convert or who is not a convert and no missionaries shall be allowed to interfere with the case.

(2) If any insurgents or fugitives from justice flee to a foreign country for safety they shall not be recognized as political refugees but shall be extradited, and they shall not be allowed to remain on the frontier or be supplied with provisions and munitions of war.

(3) No men-of-war shall be allowed to navigate the inland waters of a foreign country, or Power, nor any naval or military forces be allowed to hold manœuvres in foreign territorial waters or territory, as it would violate its sovereign rights and cause anxiety to its people.

(4) No person shall be allowed to smuggle munitions of war into the interior of a foreign country.

(5) No aliens shall be allowed to own lands.

(6) Foreign labourers shall not be treated in a cruel manner, that is to say, they shall be placed on the same footing as the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation.

(7) No foreign bank-notes shall be allowed to be put into circulation except in the ports open to foreign trade.

(8) Mining or railway concessions granted to foreign subjects shall not be renewed upon the expiration of said concessions.—N. C. D. (New)

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

THE JAPANESE BOYCOTT.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 24th June.

The Japanese Consul called on the Viceroy yesterday. It is reported that the purport of his visit was to request His Excellency to take steps to suppress the anti-Japanese movement in Canton.

RICE SALES.

The daily proceeds realised from the distribution of cheap rice in the four sheds during the days from the 21st day to the 24th day of this month were as follows:—

	East shed.	West shed.	Honam shed.	Wongshai shed.
21st	\$3,730	\$1,790	\$1,641	\$1,613
22nd	3,350	2,197	1,680	1,865
23rd	3,000	2,909	2,071	1,720
24th	3,120	1,890	1,766	1,692

From the above figures it will be seen that, owing to the flood, the distribution of cheap rice during the last few days has considerably increased and that the poor people have to depend on these sheds for their daily sustenance.

THE KAIO TUNG YEN HANG.

The manager of the proposed Canton Kaio Tung Yen Hang, Mr. Chan Ping Woong, arrived here to-day; this official has been appointed by the Ministry of Communications and Posts.

LIKIN COLLECTIONS.

The amount of Likin dues collected in Canton, as reported by the Likin officials, for the second period of ten days of the 5th moon was taels 74,581.54.

THE RECAPTURE OF HOKOU.

ASTOUNDING PRODIGES.

The recapture of Hoku is to-day an accomplished fact. M. Dupont, in charge of the French consulate, Hoku, having been informed in advance of the coming of the regular troops, sent two Annamite messengers, promising them large sums if they accomplished their mission, which was to carry to the commanders of the troops a letter in which he requested them, if possible, not to open fire on the city as it was completely abandoned—which made it certain that no resistance would be offered. The messengers seem to have accomplished their object as the troops arrived with their arms along over their shoulders, and M. Dupont is to be commended for his initiative.

Then, on Tuesday, the 26th May, about 8.30 a.m. the sound of firing came to our ears; then came the sound of trumpets, and finally, there were to be noticed "shin ping" on a buttress preceded by Commandant Ko, and furnished with many-coloured flags. The chief, whom many Europeans knew, came in front of them and shook hands with them. He carried French medals suspended on a tricoloured ribbon, that had been bestowed upon him for services rendered.—I don't know under what circumstances.

Commandant Ko, it is known, was beaten by the Rebels, and took refuge at Tonkin. I cannot say by what strategy he was able to bring himself into the ranks of the regular troops.

Here, then, are the Yunnan "regulars," to the number of about a thousand, followed by their artillery, who made haste to occupy the forts while they emitted wild cries; they installed themselves tranquilly, no one bothering them in the least; they are men well set up, of a good constitution, garbed in clean khaki, with a peaked cap bound with gold braid. Their installation completed, groups went to and fro in the city to pillage it with rigour, but the inhabitants had not forgotten anything, everything having been left open for their inspection. The regulars therefore, did not find anything, whence the fury of the soldiers, who seized several ragged natives, and thirsting for blood, inflicted on them the most atrocious tortures.

The first exploit of these fellows concerned an unfortunate who was found taking refuge on a timber raft and who jumped into the water, never raising his head except to breathe; fortunately the shots did not hit him.

Putting their instinct of savagery at the service of circumstances, the "shin ping" and the "regulars" gave proof of a remarkable zeal. A beggar going out of the village, with a package of dirty clothes, was apprehended by one of these demons; the beggar was first bound and then the soldiers with shrieks of joy beat him unmercifully with the butt end of his gun. Not satisfied with this act, they searched the man and took possession of the few cents that were contained in the pockets of this unfortunate. It is evident that this victim must have been accused of "Reform" sentiments; What expedients haven't these fellows got?

After a most horrible spectacle, in which brutality was displayed by all who took part, was to be witnessed on a sandy bank at the confluence of the R. d. River with the Nam-ti river. Some unfortunate copies incapable of any resistance, guilty only of having been found in Hoku, were led bound to the place of punishment. On the way to "Calvary" they were pricked with sabres in the calves and hit over the shoulders with the butt end of their guns. Arrived at the spot, the horde disputed with each other the honour of mutilating the patient; fully alive. The operation commenced by opening his abdomen; the intestines were torn out, his head split open, his spleen and liver taken out; the operations were facilitated by kicks on his chest. The executioner carried the liver back to the camp.

The prisoners, to the number of seven, were subjected to the same awful treatment. The savage victor, their passion not yet assuaged, amused themselves with the corpses in unmentionable ways.—P. Echo de Chine.

[The French writer goes on to describe the atrocities committed, which were the same as those inflicted by the Chinese at the first siege of Port Arthur, as described in the columns of the China Gazette, at the time the editor was an eyewitness to the operations.—N. C. D.]

CHINESE BANK NOTES.

The number of Chinese bank notes circulating in the Settlement is rapidly assuming large proportions, in spite of the fact that, with the exception of those of the Imperial Bank of China, they are not accepted by the Foreign Banks. Already there are Sing Chong, Hing-yi, Yu-ning and Yu-su notes, while a more formidable rival is about to enter the arena in the form of the Ta-tsing Bank; and another, the Chiao Tung, is to follow hard upon it. The refusal of the Foreign Banks to recognize the notes of the Yu-ning and Yu-su Banks of Nanking and Soochow respectively has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance and through Viceroy Tuan Fang steps are being taken to procure for these notes the guarantee of the Provincial Treasuries of Kiang-sing and Kiangsu. In the case of the Ta-tsing Bank, which has also appealed within the last two weeks to the Foreign Banks to accept its provisional issue of notes, the claim to State recognition is put forward with some degree of confidence. According to its articles of association this Bank takes the place of the Hops Bank, with an increase of the original capital of the superseded institution from Tls. 4,000,000 to Tls. 10,000,000, and of the 100,000 shares representing the latter, amount the Imperial Government takes up one half. Moreover, the Bank has already been made State Bankers for the bonds of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, and to start its note circulation the salaries of officials, both civil and military, in the Capital are to be paid in part in its notes. A savings bank department is to be added to it, and its business is to be national in the full meaning of the term.

In spite, however, of the Imperial sanction with which the Ta-tsing Ying Hong begins its operations, it is hardly a matter for surprise that the Foreign Banks should view with uneasiness the somewhat irresponsible growth of Chinese bank notes, and be unwilling to abandon in any one instance the attitude they have adopted on the subject in accordance with established foreign usage regarding note circulation. This usage, as is well known, requires a substantial reserve to be kept by each Bank to meet the liabilities it incurs in the issue of notes; but the practice is not customary in Chinese banking, although the system of notes has been in vogue in this country since 866 A.D. But it would appear that the firm attitude taken up by the Foreign Banks on this point has not failed of its effect upon the Chinese authorities concerned and the banking community in general. The proposal to make the Kiang-sing and Kiangsu Treasuries responsible for the redemption of the notes of the Yu-ning and Yu-su Banks, respectively, in the event of the failure of either of these institutions, is an attempt to meet the objection that no silver reserve is held against these notes. At the same time the Ministry of Finance is credited with having under its consideration new regulations for the administration of native banks, in which provision will be made for a cash reserve against notes in circulation. In the articles of association of the Ta-tsing Bank reference is made to these prospective regulations, and it may well be that the Directors of this National Bank intend to adopt foreign custom in regard to their issue of notes. Meanwhile, however, the Bank would seem to have been allowed to begin operations, and its business, including the issue of notes, will be conducted provisionally on lines that would not commend themselves to a foreign banking community. Accordingly, until the regulations governing native banks have been promulgated by the Tschingpu and have proved satisfactory to the foreign bank authorities, the latter cannot be blamed for refusing to incur liabilities in connexion with unprotected issues of notes. It would be open to the Ta-tsing Bank to obtain recognition for its notes by procuring from the Central Government a guarantee, formally given to the Diplomatic Body, that all its liabilities would be met; and in the same way the support being the Yu-ning, Yu-su and other Banks should be Imperial and not provincial.

Although the history of banking in China dates back to a period when the science was unknown to Europe, the system has preserved until more recent times its primitive organization. With the exception of the facilities provided by the circumstance that the banking business was for the most part a close monopoly of Shanxi men, an individual bank's operations were confined to a single town, sometimes to a single street. The most elaborate precautions were taken to prevent the counterfeiting of notes, and as the necessity for transferring funds long distances existed in a very restricted form, the system presented few drawbacks. For forty years prior to 1900 the issue of notes was left entirely to private banks, and it is only recently that the attention of the provincial governments has been drawn to the advantages of a note issue in view of the absorption of their revenue for Imperial purposes. At the same time the need for the frequent transfer of funds has arisen and the disadvantages of conveying large amounts of specie become more and more obvious. But with the increase in banking business comes both a less strict code of business morality and in the case of notes less elaborate precautions against fraud. These two points can hardly be overlooked at the present juncture, and it becomes imperative to see that a wide circulation of notes should not lead to any serious complications. From the Minutes of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce it will be seen that the subject has been under discussion between that body, the Municipal Council and the Senior Consul. The strong attitude taken up by the banking and commercial sections of the community should convince the Chinese Banks and the Central Government that the issue of notes by any bank that calls itself Imperial is fraught with danger to Chinese trade and to China's banking system.—N. C. D. (New)

To-day's Advertisements.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

—MENU—

SATURDAY, 27th June, 1908.

DINNER.

HORS D'OEUVRES.

Eggs en Aspic.

SOUP.

Clear Windsor.

FISH.

Salmon Mayonnaise.

ENTREES.

Gillied Pigeon on Toast.

Fricassee of Veal.

CURRY.

Kabob.

JOINTS, &c.

Roast Lamb and Mint Sauce.

Roast Gapon and Calery Sauce.

Boiled Corned Ox Tongue and Cereals.

Cold Roast Sirloin of Beef and Mixed Salad.

SWEETS.

Semolin Pudding.

Apricot Ice Cream and Finger Cakes.

Topsy Cake.

Cheese Straws.

DESSERT.

Coffee.

Fruits.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

A MEETING OF MEMBERS wishing to subscribe for SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS for the 1909 Race Meeting will be held on THURSDAY, the 2nd July, at 5 P.M. at the Offices of the JOCKEY CLUB on the Ground Floor of the Hongkong Club Annex, Chater Road.

By Order.

T. F. HOUGH,

Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 26th June, 1908.

BROKERS AT LOGGERSHEADS.

ALLEGED DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS.

"X-Ray" writes to the China Gazette, Shanghai, of 18th inst., as follows:—

I think it will be of very great interest to the investing and speculative public to peruse the following document which was posted at the Shanghai Stock Exchange to-day. The document reads as follows:—

SHANGHAI STOCK EXCHANGE.

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Shanghai Stock Exchange will be held at the Stock Exchange at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, 3rd July, 1908, for the following purpose:—

1.—To consider the action of Gordius Nielsen in writing certain words in the Official Book for quoting transactions reported by Messrs. Toeg and Read and W. G. Pirie, and in making defamatory statements with reference to one of the aforesaid Members and to decide what action shall be taken in the matter.

2.—The following Resolution will be proposed by H. H. Read and seconded by Mr. S. S. Benjamin.

"That no member shall be permitted to advertise that he has any particular shares for sale or to purchase, but General Circulars of Market Quotations may be issued by any Member to his clients as heretofore."

By order of the Committee,

W. F. WINGROVE,

Secretary.

Shanghai, 17th June, 1908.

I am credibly informed that the particular remark written in the Official Book against a transaction reported as have taken place between Messrs. Toeg and Read and Mr. W. G. Pirie was to the following effect: "This transaction is a fraud upon the public."

Without in any way taking sides in this Stock Exchange squabble, I may say that whether or not the transaction is of the nature so trenchantly described by Mr. Nielsen, the duty of the Committee of the Stock Exchange would clearly seem to be to properly investigate the matter and satisfy themselves one way or another as to whether the allegation is true or untrue before they attempt to sit in judgment on Mr. Nielsen. Having ascertained the truth of the case, their duty is equally clear; they must either take steps against Mr. Nielsen or against Messrs. Toeg and Read, or against Mr. W. G. Pirie. The matter is of vital interest to the public, for if Mr. Nielsen's allegation should prove to be true the public is clearly being swindled.

As for the defamatory statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Nielsen "with reference to one of the aforesaid Members," it is equally clear that the aggrieved parties have the remedy in their own hands. As far as I am aware Mr. Nielsen is a Danish subject, and if either Messrs. Toeg and Read or Mr. W. G. Pirie feel that their characters have been defamed, they pursue a wrong course by laying their grievance before the committee of the Stock Exchange, who have no jurisdiction over Mr. Nielsen in a matter of this nature. In my opinion the public by whom the brokers are employed have a right to demand that either or all of the three members clear their characters by suing Mr. Nielsen for defamation of character.

A WASHINGTON despatch, of 18th inst., to the N. C. D. News says:—On the second day of the Chicago Convention another vast assembly was present with Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, as permanent Chairman. Mr. Lodge's references to President Roosevelt started a whirlwind of a demonstration lasting for a full hour, during which time perfect pandemonium reigned. The Committee on Credentials has allowed the seats of the entire "Taif" forces, amounting 705 "Taif" delegates, so that Mr. Taif's nomination is certain. Mr. Lodge said that President Roosevelt's withdrawal was irrevocable. The injunction plank in the Republican platform was agreed to.

Intimations.

SPECIAL BARGAINS!

OFFERED IN SOME

FIRST CLASS PIANOS.

TO CLEAR, ORDINARY PRICE.

Rachals - - \$565 \$700

" - - 535 650

" - - 410 500

Collard - - 580 700

Steinweg - 540 650

Hopkinson - 430 550

Haake - - 395 500

Bretschneider 340 450

FULLY GUARANTEED.

CASH or CREDIT SYSTEM.

ROBINSON PIANO Co., LTD.

Hongkong, 18th June, 1908.

135

KOWLOON HOTEL.

MUSICAL EVENING TO-MORROW NIGHT,

from 8 P.M. to 11 P.M.

Remember THE HOTEL

has been transformed

into

FRESH BLOOD

Now.

ENTIRELY RENOVATED

AND

REPAINTED.

O. E. OWEN,

Proprietor.

Kowloon Hotel, 18th June, 1908.

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. H. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT.	AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT PRESENT QUOTATION BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	Final of 12 on old and 12.10 on new shares for 1-year ending 31.12.07	5 1/2 %	\$75 1/2 London 278.10.
Nations Bank of China, Limited	90,925	£7	£6	£4,000	£10,223	\$2 (London 3/6) for 1903 .....	...	\$5 1/2
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000	none	\$20 for 1906	8 1/2 %	\$235 sellers
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	£1,500,000	Tls. 204,424	Interim of 7/6 ex 2 1/2 for 1907	6 %	Tls. 77 1/2
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	2,400	\$250	\$100	\$1,500,000	2,506,011	Final of \$15 making \$45 for 1906 and Interim of \$30 for 1907	5 1/2 %	\$790
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,500,000	\$501,763	\$12 and bonus \$3 for 1906	9 1/2 %	\$152 1/2 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$1,500,000	\$574,432	\$6 and bonus \$2 for 1906	8 1/2 %	\$92 buyers
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000	\$428,027	\$27 for 1906	8 1/2 %	\$315 buyers
SHIPPING.								
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	\$25	\$25	\$7,500	12,015	\$1 for 1906 .....	...	\$15
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	70,000	\$50	\$50	\$250,000	Nil.	\$4 for year ending 30.6.1907	10 1/2 %	\$37
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$275,000	16,437	\$1 1/2 for 2nd half-year making in all \$2 1/2 for year ending 31.12.07	7 1/2 %	\$29 buyers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred) ..	60,000	£5	£5	£270,000	£3,694	5/- for 1906 @ ex 2 1/2 = \$2.24 per share ..	3 1/2 %	\$24 buyers
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	200,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 14,510	Final of Tls. 1 1/2 making Tls. 3 1/2 for 1907 ..	7 1/2 %	Tls. 44 sales
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	1,000,000	£1	£1	£1,000,000	172,370	Second interim of 1/- (Coupon No. 9. for a/c 1907	7 1/2 %	Tls. 52 sales
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$100,000	\$98	\$1.00 for year ending 30.4.10	4 %	\$25
Taku Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	1,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 10,000	6,860	Final of Tls. 1 1/2 making Tls. 5 for 1907	12 1/2 %	Tls. 49 sellers
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	100	100	\$56,848	Dr. \$279,371	\$8 for year ending 31.12.05 .....	...	\$130
Luxon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	Dr. \$135,131	\$1 for 1907 .....	...	\$22
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 100,000	118,977	Tls. 4 (8 1/2) for year ending 31.8.06 .....	...	Tls. 121 buyers
MINING.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd.	1,000,000	£1	£1	£150,000	£11,556	Interim of 1/6 (No. 10) for account 1908	7 1/2 %	Tls. 151 buyers
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited ..	50,000	£1	£1	£4,871	£11,358	No. 12 of 1/- = 48 cents .....	...	\$7
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Gen.) & Co., Limited	18,000	\$25	\$25	\$53,601	\$3,726	\$1.75 for year ending 31.12.06 .....	...	\$13
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$50	\$50	\$308,866	\$1,556	Final of \$1 1/2 making \$3 1/2 for 1907	7 %	\$50 buyers
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	50,000	\$50	\$50	\$250,000	\$441,442	Final of \$4 making \$8 for 1907	7 1/2 %	\$104
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	55,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 5,000,000	Tls. 10,459	Interim of Tls. 2 1/2 for six months ending 31st October, 1907	6 %	Tls. 81 sales
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited ..	36,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 697,457	Tls. 22,626	Final of Tls. 9 making Tls. 17 for 1907	7 1/2 %	Tls. 250 buyers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 25,000	Tls. 6,531	Tls. 6 for 1907	6 %	Tls. 101 sales
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai) ..	10,000	\$25	\$25	\$250,000	\$10,908	\$2 1/2 for year ending 30.6.07	11 1/2 %	\$20 1/2 sellers
Central Stores, Limited	50,123	\$15	\$15	\$751,845	\$9,178	\$2.50 for 1906 .....	...	\$12 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	\$50	\$50	\$600,000	\$259	Final of \$3 1/2 making \$7 1/2 for 1907	7 1/2 %	95 1/2
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$100	\$5,000,000	\$36,915	Final of \$3 1/2 making in all \$7 for year ending 31.12.07	7 %	\$100 sellers
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited ..	150,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,500,000	\$4,621	70 cents for 1907	6 1/2 %	\$10 1/2
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	6,000	\$50	\$50	none	1655	\$1 1/2 for 1907	6 1/2 %	\$26 1/2 sales
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 1,523,045	Tls. 107,547	Final of Tls. 3 and bonus of Tls. 2 making in all Tls. 5 for 1907	6 1/2 %	Tls. 123 sales
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	\$50	\$50	none	\$1,541	Final of \$2.10 making in all \$4.10 for year ending 31.12.07	8 1/2 %	\$48
COTTON MILLS.								
Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 150,000	Tls. 8,807	Tls. 2 1/2 for year ending 31.10.1907	4 1/2 %	Tls. 56 buyers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	15,000	\$10	\$10	\$300,000	\$14,269	50 cents for year ending 31.7.07	4 1/2 %	\$11 sales
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	Tls. 150,000	Tls. 85,519	Tls. 6 for year ending 30.9.06 (8 1/2) .....	...	Tls. 62 1/2 sales
Lau-kaung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	none	Tls. 6,303	Tls. 8 for 1906 .....	...	Tls. 82 1/2 sales
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	Tls. 28,257	Tls. 50,003	Tls. 50 for 1906 .....	...	Tls. 245 sellers
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	12 1/2	12 1/2	\$1,299	2638	1 1/2 per share for 1906	9 %	\$7 1/2
China-Borneo Company, Limited	50,000	\$12	\$12	\$600,000	Nil.	\$1.20 for 1907	11 1/2 %	\$10 1/2
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$26,000	60 cents for year ended 28.2.06 .....	...	16 1/2
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	125,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,250,000	\$3,593	80 cents for 1907	8 1/2 %	\$9 1/2
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	15,000	\$7 1/2	\$6	\$100,000	\$2,074	\$1.30 for year ending 31.7.07	6 1/2 %	\$20
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	\$10	\$10	\$4,000,000	\$5,078	Final of 75 cents making in all \$1 1/2 for 1907 ..	11 1/2 %	\$12 1/2
H. Price & Company, Limited	12,000	\$10	\$10	\$120,000	\$251	75 cents for 9 months ending 31.12.07	8 %	\$12 buyers
Hall & Holt, Limited	11,000	\$20	\$20	\$220,000	8,979	\$2 for year ending 28.2.8	10 1/2 %	\$19 1/2 sales
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$9,321	1 and bonus 20 cts. for year ending 19.2.08 ..	7 1/2 %	\$16
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	\$25	\$25	\$125,000	\$4,578	Final of \$1 1/2 making in all \$19 for 1907	8 1/2 %	\$22 1/2 buyers
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$600,000	18,191	Final of \$1.20 making in all \$2 for 1907	8 %	\$25 buyers
Maatschappij tot Mijl- Bosch-en Landbouwerij op de Lantak, Limited	25,000	Ga. 100	Ga. 100	Tls. 547,500	Tls. 17,127	Interim of Tls. 10 for 2nd quarter	6 1/2 %	Tls. 52 1/2 sales
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	15,000	\$10	\$10	\$150,000	\$7,471	80 cents on fully paid shares and 6 cents on \$1 paid shares for year ending 30.4.08 ..	6 %	\$14
Philippine Company, Limited	50,000	\$20	\$20	\$1,000,000	Nil.	None	4 %	\$24
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 100,000	Tls. 6,603	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 7 1/2 for 1907	6 1/2 %	Tls. 113 sales
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 24,820	Tls. 8,493	Final of Tls. 9 making in all Tls. 14 for 1907 ..	16 %	Tls. 88 sales
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,350	£20	£20	Tls. 190,000	Tls. 18,432	Final of 37 1/2 making 52 1/2 for 1907 .....	...	Tls. 185 sales
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	\$25	\$25	none	Dr. \$90,237	None .....	...	\$23 buyers
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	\$5	\$5	none	\$478	40 cents for year ending 31.5.07	6 1/2 %	\$6
Tientsin Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 15,295	Tls. 201	Tls. 6 1/2 for year ending 30.4.07	4 1/2 %	Tls. 67 sellers
Union Waterboat Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$111	50 cents for 1907	4 1/2 %	\$11
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$4	\$35,000	\$1,360	80 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and \$10.50 on 100,000 shares for yr. end. 31.5.07 ..	6 1/2 %	\$13
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	\$10	\$10	\$900,000	\$6,438	Final of 30 cents = 3 - making 60 cents for year ending 31.12.07	6 %	\$10 sellers
William Powell, Limited	15,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$41	Final of 30 cts. making 80 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1900	\$5 buyers

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

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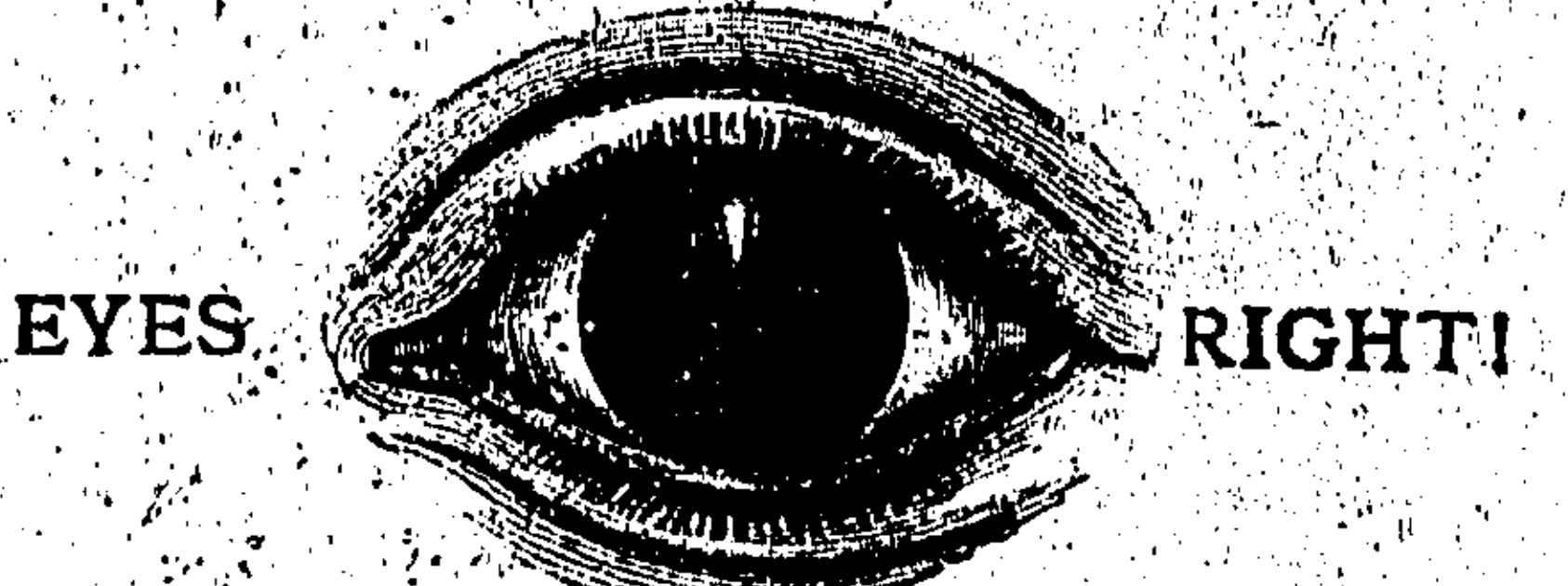
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Hongkong, 19th October, 1907.

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT

(ESTABLISHED 1881)

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第八十二月五年四十三緒光

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1938

第六十二月六年六

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DEATHS.

On June 14, 1938, at Shanghai, **PETER TAYLOR**, late Dock Master of The Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., aged 40 years.

On June 15, 1938, at Shanghai, **MORTIMER SEELY-HUBERT** of the I. M. Customs Service, son of Major, E. Seely-Hubert, U.S. Army, (retired) of East Norwalk, Connecticut, U.S.A., aged 34 years.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1938.

TRADE DEPRESSION.

(20th June.)

Writing to a contemporary on the dark cloud that has been gathering over the commercial horizon in the Straits Settlements, a correspondent observed that there were two organisations which are expected to look after the interests of those Settlements. The first of these is the Straits Settlements Association, which is an absolutely independent body, whose sole aim and object is to protect and assist all legitimate enterprise in the Straits Settlements. The second body to which the correspondent refers is the Singapore Chamber of Commerce. This very conservative Association is supposed to take most particular care of the interests of those engaged in commerce in Singapore particularly and of the whole Straits Settlements in general. The writer urges that, during the long time that troubles have been increasing in the southern Settlements, neither one body nor the other has moved in any way to either ameliorate the position or suggest what should be done to prevent further difficulties. He proposes that, if those two bodies are too feeble to even try to suggest some means of dealing with the situation which the sister Colony is now confronted with, it should be possible to convene a general meeting of traders to discuss the situation. Commenting on the correspondent's letter, the *Singapore Free Press* writes editorially: "There can be no two opinions at the present time of financial paralysis in the Colony that the question that our correspondent 'Very Small' lays before the public in a letter printed this morning, is one that comes directly home to every one engaged in commerce or in the professions in this place. The difficulty is with us daily; it enters into every relation of daily business life, and yet, although conscious of the trouble and the pressure, nobody seems to be able very precisely to say what that trouble is and what are the measures that should be taken to alleviate it. Our correspondent lays the onus of initiative on two bodies, for the obtaining of common counsel which shall have for its end the palliating of the financial and trade confusion in which the Colony finds itself at present. Without discussion it is impossible to assess the responsibility. The Government, by its selection of a certain figure for the value of the dollar, enters into an actual responsibility; but far more in so far as it is credited with the removal of large bodies of currency from circulation with the intention of maintaining that fixed dollar value. The Chamber of Commerce from its very designation and its programme of activity is the body which ought to initiate discussion. Then, we should say, the general body of traders, upon whose individual prosperity rests the prosperity of the Colony as a whole. It is difficult to say how far the Straits Settlements Association should do any more than support action taken by public bodies or meeting more directly concerned. The actual duty of the Straits Settlements Association is to watch the introduction of bills into the Legislative Council, to examine these independently, and to inform the public, so far as is possible, of any provision that is injurious to the public interests and rights. Incidentally, when occasion offers, to support the unofficial members of Legislative Council, and to call public meetings in support of any opposition that the unofficials may feel called upon to offer in regard to projected legislation. Over and above all that, to aid in the expression of public opinion in any matter in which the general public interest is held to be at stake. It will be admitted that it is rather for those organisations that stand for commerce to begin action in the financial crisis, that is so notoriously impending over the trade of the Colony. We can only at this moment commend our correspondent's letter to the thoughtful consideration of every man who feels his fortunes involved in the present difficulties, that are the constant theme of daily private talk. But private talk will not further matters to any effect. What is really wanted is that the responsible men who have the largest interests endangered shall meet, openly, put their wits together and endeavour to arrive at a clear definition of the character of the crisis, and thereafter to do their best to arrive at a decision as to the remedies that will relieve the present financial tension. Any well-considered contribution to the discussion will be generally welcome." As contrasting with the China Association and the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, which are very "live" institutions in this Colony, similar bodies in the Straits appear to be showing up at considerable disadvantage.

MALARIA IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

(22nd June.)

Some weeks ago it may be remembered that His Excellency the Governor, made the suggestion that the various reservoirs in this Colony should be stocked with trout with the object, if we recollect aright, of keeping the water pure and fresh, and he called for opinions as to the best method to be adopted towards securing this end. Whether anything further has been done in the matter we are unaware, but the scheme certainly had the approval of all those who pretended to have any knowledge of the question. In the same connection, it may not be inappropriate to consider the possibilities underlying another scheme to which are attributed virtues calculated to lead eventually to the suppression of malaria. The Colony of Hongkong itself cannot be described as being generally malarious although there are districts which are notoriously dangerous to those who may be subject to malaria. But on the mainland and along the route of the Kowloon-Canton railway ample proof is forthcoming at a moment's notice that one of the most insidious fevers known to medical science has obtained a firm footing. The number of hospital patients drawn from the rank and file of the railway workers owing to the contraction of malarial fever is immense, and not a few have succumbed to the scourge. Other causes may, of course, have been at work but malaria was the prime factor in the death of the victims. It was owing to a knowledge of this characteristic of life on the mainland that the late Mr. A. H. Renne resolved to accommodate the principal employees engaged at the Junk Bay Flour Mills on a floating house, and for that purpose acquired a hulk which was wrecked in Hongkong harbour and fitted it up as a convenient residence, anchored off the mills. That being so, it is obvious that if any plan is presented whereby reasonable hopes may be entertained that the *anopheles* mosquito will be exterminated after a term of years, at a minimum of expense, such a plan is worthy of every consideration by the Government. And it is in this respect that we arrive at the analogy of the proposal to stock the reservoirs with trout. It would seem that in certain of our West Indian possessions, the medical fraternity has noted with interest the non-existence of the *anopheles* mosquito and the consequent absence of malaria. The conditions were entirely favourable to the spread of malaria and the propagation of the infecting mosquito, but neither the one nor the other was known to exist, or, at all events, if they existed at all the instances traced were infinitesimal. In these circumstances it was obvious that there was some hitherto undiscovered reason why the *anopheles* mosquito failed to produce its kind in such an island as Barbadoes for example. Dr. Herbert Bingley, in writing from that West Indian possession to the *Times* on the subject, quoted a report made by Major Hodder, R.E., to the War Office some three years ago in which it was stated that from his observations the *anopheles* could, or did, only breed on the ground level; none of the larvae being found in tanks which were raised a few feet from the earth, or even in those which were actually resting on the ground. The *culex* can, on the other hand, breed in the gutters on the roofs of high buildings as easily as in the low lying swamps and pools. The writer proceeds to state that Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, who had given a good deal of attention to the matter, pointed out at once that all the pools and swamps in that island were stocked with swarms of a tiny fish (known locally from their vast numbers as 'millions'), and that their favourite food was the larvae of the mosquito. It is obvious that any species of that insect which is unable to breed above the ground level must fall a prey to this enemy. The fish has been identified by Mr. Boulenger, F.R.S., of the British Museum, as *Girardinus pectiolatus*. Some specimens were successfully got to England, and flourished for some time in the insect house at the Zoological Society's Gardens. Mr. Gibbons's suggestion that the 'millions' should be imported into malarial districts in other islands has been acted upon with felicitous results. Antigay, 'being convinced of the useful part played by these fish in consuming mosquito larvae, has arranged for their systematic distribution throughout the ponds and streams of the Island.' Similar news comes from Jamaica, whither a consignment of the fish was sent in November, 1936. The secretary of the Agricultural Society has written that the tanks at the 'Titchfield Hotel are full of them, and that he had been informed that there has been a marked diminution of fever round about the 'millions' evidently accounting for the mosquito larvae. They have also been sent to Colon and to British Guiana.—Dr. Herbert Bingley adds: "One cannot help wishing that these useful little fish were given a trial in the deadly districts of Africa, if, like the malarial mosquito, the insects which convey the terrible diseases which are endemic there pass the larva stage of their existence in water. One may add in this connection that the Swedish Consul at Frankfurt has discovered a small fish ('the blue eyed') which feeds on mosquito larvae; and that, at the request of the Italian Government, some are to be, or have been, sent to the Campagna, where so much has been done in recent years to diminish malaria." By this time, it should not be difficult for the Government to ascertain whether the theory in question is correct or otherwise; and if it be found that there is reason to believe the absence of malaria is due to the destruction of the larvae by the fish mentioned it might be possible to secure their introduction to Hongkong. The Kowloon-Canton railway will prove such a costly undertaking in the end that everything possible should be done to advance its interests, while the development of the New Territories should not be in any degree retarded by the prevalence of a preventable disease. The question is at least as important as that

CASTING OUR BREAD ON THE WATERS.

(24th June.)

It is impossible to disguise the fact that the disaster which has overtaken the neighbouring provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi is fraught with the most serious consequences to the prosperity of South China. Last year the villagers, owing to the numerous bands of disaffected reactionaries who roamed the country, found their efforts to cultivate the land rendered nugatory, while drought and floods conspired to complete the ruin of their unhappiness. Day after day we reported the enormous quantities of rice which were being sent to the relief of the starving population, and even yet the Chinese Relief Distribution Bureau is at work alleviating in a measure the existing distress among the peasantry in the outlands. Every hope was entertained that the lean years of the past would be succeeded by at least one fat season, but to a large extent that hope was destroyed by the continued drought which blighted the paddy fields in the early months of this year. It was estimated that instead of an excess being garnered, the crop would not yield more than 30 per cent. of an average output. Even that was better than nothing, for to that extent the purchasing power of the people would be increased, and the burden on the gentry and merchants of the Southern provinces lightened. But fate in the shape of a remarkable freshet has finally wiped out of existence the last hope of the people. It is no desire on our part to use the language of exaggeration, but we would suggest that readers might for a moment transfer their thoughts from the Fu and West Rivers to the Thames, and fancy that for two hundred miles the entire valley of that placid stream was submerged to the depth of, say, twenty feet; and that vessels were traversing the old route without seeing the erstwhile smiling fields for days, that in fact the landscape was composed of water; and then consider how that circumstance would affect the reading public. But because China is a country of untold millions, losses which in Europe would become historic are passed by as if of common-place interest, if of interest at all. There can be no doubt, however, that this calamity will deal a serious blow to the Southern provinces. If the people had anything to fall back upon the matter would wear a different aspect, but impoverished and exploited as they have been for years they have as much prospect of discovering a way out of the difficulty as a church rat. The last of their possessions has been wrrenched from them as if by ironic devilry and they are no better than beggars in the land—beggars by compulsion. Were that the most grievous evil of the situation, the smug and unctuous Pharisees might fold their hands and pray for more regenerate days, but what will happen if these people are left to their own devices? Here is a quaint Americanism which says that 'the world owes you a 'chow,' on the syllogistic principle that you had no say in the matter of arriving here; and no man, be he black, white or yellow, should be defrauded of what he conceives to be his right. The 'Cantonese are by no means lacking in imagination, enterprise or audacity, and if these people are allowed to remain without outside assistance it is inevitable that they will revert to the primal trade of piracy and robbery. What that means to Hongkong, embarrassed as it is, it is unnecessary to suggest. That the gentry and charitable institutions and guilds of Canton will do their utmost to relieve the unfortunate we have not the slightest doubt; but considering the many calls which have of recent years been made on their purses it is highly improbable that they can do more than afford help to the most necessitous cases. It, therefore, becomes the duty of those whose connections are all associated with Canton and the West River to bestir themselves and exhibit that sympathy which has never been lacking on the part of the Chinese at home and abroad when this Colony has been involved in distress. It would not be beneath the dignity of His Excellency the Governor, rather it would popularise his régime in Hongkong, were he to head the movement in this 'only for the relief of the suffering Chinese, who are kinsmen of those who obey his rule and to whom in great part the present standing and importance of Hongkong are due. We are fully cognisant of the fact that Hongkong is in no great financial condition to render lavish aid to those outside our borders, but here, surely is a case, if ever there was one, where the helping hand might properly be tendered, even if it only be on the principle of casting our bread on the waters. The example of 1925, when a Commission was appointed to deal with the question of relief on a similar occasion, might fittingly be repeated.

THE CRY OF THE STARVING.

(24th June.)

Prompted by a series of urgent and beseeching telegrams from the guilds and charitable institutions of Canton, portraying in vivid language the sufferings and misery of those who have been the victims of the almost unprecedented inundations both in Kwangtung and Kwangsi, the leading representatives of the Chinese community in Hongkong have acted with an alacrity which betrays how keenly they appreciate the necessity that immediate steps should be taken if the survivors of the visitation are to be saved from starvation. How imperative it is that there should not be the very slightest delay in responding to the appeal for help is evident from the character of the

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA.

(24th June.)

The subject of Chinese immigration is of perennial interest on the Pacific coast, largely owing to the attitude adopted by the powerful labour unions who control the political machine. As the consequence of the agitation instituted in San Francisco, the Government of the United States found itself in a serious predicament. At one time it seemed as if the Government was opposed not merely to the Chinese coolies but to the Chinese in general. They would have been of all Chinese irrespective of their position, their skill or their standing in China. When the Cantonese declared a boycott against American products as a retaliatory measure and made it an effective force from Shanghai to Peking, the foreign armistice on the Pacific coast began to realize that the Chinese immigrants, one of the greatest potential markets in the world would be closed to them; and a compromise was reached when it was agreed that only Chinese coolies should be excluded; 'merchants', tourists and students being freely allowed to land. That concession greatly cleared the air, and the ban against American goods was for all practical purposes removed. In Canada the problem of Chinese immigration was largely solved by the imposition of a heavy poll-tax of \$500 gold which it was believed would serve to act as a barrier against the coolie class. Naturally, the enterprising agents of Chinese labour resorted to new tactics. If the Chinese coolie could not be imported, except after the payment of the tax then he must be smuggled into the country, and a brisk trade in contraband Chinese immediately sprang into being. The authorities took steps to check the illegal traffic, only to find themselves checkmated by a new phase of the law. Last year a number of Chinese were arrested in Montreal and sent to jail on the charge of being in Canada without having paid the poll-tax. It was shown that the men had been smuggled in by a small vessel and to the lay mind it looked as if they were as guilty of the offence as the man who did the smuggling. The courts, however, took a different view and as a result of habeas corpus proceedings the Chinese were set at liberty on the ground that, while they could be refused admission to Canada if they did not pay the poll-tax, once inside Canada, whether they paid the poll-tax or not, they could not be interfered with. The decision was reversed with consideration in British Columbia, first seemed to put a premium on smuggling, since regarding the Chinamen as contraband, the high duty would naturally tempt adventurers to get them ashore. The matter was brought to the attention of the Canadian Government, which was called upon to enact additional restrictive measures which would have the effect of providing against the continuance of an obvious anomaly. If a man who had been smuggled into Canada without payment of the poll-tax were thereby a citizen of Canada, the whole intention of the law was defeated. Last month, we learnt, a Government measure was read, a second time in the Canadian Senate specially designed to deal with those Chinese who have landed on Canadian soil without leave or licence. The Bill enacts that: 'Every person of Chinese origin who—(a) lands or attempts to land in Canada without payment of the tax payable under this Act; or—(b) willfully evades or attempts to evade any of the provisions of this Act as respects the payment of the tax by personating any other individual; or—(c) willfully makes use of or attempts to make use of any forged or fraudulent certificate issued to any other person for any purpose connected with this Act is guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or to both.' It is also provided that: 'Persons of Chinese origin shall, if guilty of an offence under the last preceding sub-section in addition to the said penalties, also be liable to deportation.' That clause should certainly meet the requirements of the Canadian law, and is entirely in accordance with Canadian sentiment. The regulations governing the admission of persons specially exempted from payment of the poll-tax have been revised and now stand as follows:—Paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of section 7 of the said Act is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:—(c) (1) Merchants, their wives and minor children; (2) The wives and minor children of clergyman; (3) Tourists; (4) Men of science; (5) Students under, seven years of age; (6) Subject to such regulations as may from time to time be made by the Governor-in-Council, duly certified teachers, who shall substantiate their status to the satisfaction of the Controller, subject to the approval of the Minister, or who are bearers of certificates of identity, or who are similar documents issued by the Government or by a recognized official or representative of the Government whose subjects they are, specifying their occupation and their object in coming into Canada. It will be seen that the law is in no way changed in principle, only the existing loopholes by which Chinese coolies who had been surreptitiously landed in Canada and thereby became *de facto* Canadian citizens, have been shut out so that effect may be given to the original object of the law. The Vancouver *World* speaking of the clause which grants 'free admission' to Chinese merchants, tourists, etc., remarks: 'The effect of this clause is to give the officials greater control over the immigration, that is, larger discretion in refusing admission under the exemption clause. As they possibly have the effect of putting a stop to the practice of bringing Chinese coolies

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA.

(24th June.)

telegrams from Canton, and that the Chinese community has not failed to recognize the imperative need for urgency is made plain by the fact that within two hours after receiving these messages a large consignment of food stuffs was on its way to Canton. Had there been any tendency shown to view the position of affairs with that calm incredulity of superior wisdom affected by the self-congratulating quidnuncs, the editor of the Chinese 'Chronicle' in Hongkong would have been guilty of nothing less than criminal neglect in a most pronounced form. They would have been unworthy of the trust reposed in them; and unworthy of their own reputation. Fortunately they have risen to the occasion and as far as it lies have to the utmost of their ability done their utmost to justify the confidence of their compatriots. But if the committee of the Tung Wa—which is the responsible body when matters affecting Chinese affairs are concerned—have done their best, it is to be feared that red tape and sealing wax are still capable of successfully opposing anything like haste and energy, even when the lives of hundreds of Chinese are at stake. The old circumlocutory methods of officialdom still serve to thwart and delay progress even in a matter of life and death, and up to the time of writing it would seem as if the Government of Hongkong had utterly failed to realize the importance of expedition, or at all events are not convinced that there is any special necessity for a display of haste. Of course the fact that a certain number of people are perishing at a certain place or places for want of bread, and are likely to fall victims to starvation after having been rescued from drowning, may not appeal with such force to those in high offices as it does to the Chinese community who understand the situation, and for that reason the inaction shown may be pardoned. Nothing more clearly indicates how extremely grave is the state of affairs as conceived by the members of the Tung Wa than the speedy manner in which they went to work to secure the means essential for the dispatch of relief to the famine-stricken survivors of the flood. The Tung Wa members received telegrams at 8 p.m. last night, outlining the conditions prevailing along the route from Samshui to Wuchow; the committee were called together and the conclusion was immediately arrived at that 'a big calamity had befallen them, not only in Kwangsi but the whole Province of Kwangtung.' Such language coming from staid, austere and thoughtful Chinese is highly significant. A sum of \$10,000 was voted from the reserve fund of the Tung Wa as an emergency loan, and the members on the spot themselves subscribed \$5,000 towards the relief of their compatriots. As regards the Chinese abroad the imprimatur of the Registrar-General has to be obtained before any appeal can be made by telegram and, although the Tung Wa representatives met that official to-day, and in accordance with his desire sent him a written statement embodying the action of the directorate—and the whole matter be forgotten that the Registrar-General is himself *ex-officio* head of the Tung Wa Hospital—no answer one way or the other had been received this afternoon from the Government department. Thus while the matter is one of the extreme urgency the philanthropic intentions of the Tung Wa members are coldly frustrated by forms and ceremonies of procedure. The worst of it is that inaction at the present moment cannot but be regarded as callous apathy and no amount of explanation afterwards will convince the charitable institutions of Canton that the Chinese in Hongkong have not deliberately decided to ignore the imploring appeals for aid addressed to them. However, the Tung Wa members were fortunately in a position to buy up the entire stock of ship's biscuits in Hongkong, some 2,000 piculs in quantity, representing some 270,000 lbs. Part of that quantity was sent off last night and part went to-day. The fact that biscuits instead of rice were sent in the first place is without doubt admirable proof of the far-sightedness of the members, for it has to be borne in mind that the majority of those at the point of starvation are without the most primitive means of kindling a fire. All the country is under water and such a thing as fuel is out of the question except in a very few places skirting or within measurable distance of the West River. Of course, the ingenuity of the survivors will surmount that obstacle in time so that supplies of rice may be distributed, as is being done by the puppets sent from Canton. And the sooner that the Government of Hongkong authorizes the dispatch of the cables abroad the sooner will all the necessary arrangements for the systematic alleviation of the sufferings of the hopeless and ruined peasantry of Kwangtung and Kwangsi be completed. But the assistance of the Government is formally acquiescing in the proposal of the Tung Wa committee should not end there. Would it not be a graceful and worthy action on the part of His Excellency the Governor to adopt immediate measures of a personal character in order to express the sympathy of the people of this Colony with our neighbours in Kwangtung in the terrible misfortune which have befallen them? As we said yesterday, unless the victims of the flood are aided over their present difficulties by outside help, we shall see a marked recurrence of crime in the two Kwang provinces which will still further affect the commercial interests of this Colony. Already reports are to hand concerning the doings of lawless characters who are taking advantage of the opportunity to ply their nefarious trade and pile agony upon agony on the distressed people, and this is only the beginning of things.

CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA.

(24th June.)

The subject of Chinese immigration is of perennial interest on the Pacific coast, largely owing to the attitude adopted by the powerful labour unions who control the political machine. As the consequence of the agitation instituted in San Francisco, the Government of the United States found itself in a serious predicament. At one time it seemed as if the Government was opposed not merely to the Chinese coolies but to the Chinese in general. They would have been of all Chinese irrespective of their position, their skill or their standing in China. When the Cantonese declared a boycott against American products as a retaliatory measure and made it an effective force from Shanghai to Peking, the foreign armistice on the Pacific coast began to realize that the Chinese immigrants, one of the greatest potential markets in the world would be closed to them; and a compromise was reached when it was agreed that only Chinese coolies should be excluded; 'merchants', tourists and students being freely allowed to land. That concession greatly cleared the air, and the ban against American goods was for all practical purposes removed. In Canada the problem of Chinese immigration was largely solved by the imposition of a heavy poll-tax of \$500 gold which it was believed would serve to act as a barrier against the coolie class. Naturally, the enterprising agents of Chinese labour resorted to new tactics. If the Chinese coolie could not be imported, except after the payment of the tax then he must be smuggled into the country, and a brisk trade in contraband Chinese immediately sprang into being. The authorities took steps to check the illegal traffic, only to find themselves checkmated by a new phase of the law. Last year a number of Chinese were arrested in Montreal and sent to jail on the charge of being in Canada without having paid the poll-tax. It was shown that the men had been smuggled in by a small vessel and to the lay mind it looked as if they were as guilty of the offence as the man who did the smuggling. The courts, however, took a different view and as a result of habeas corpus proceedings the Chinese were set at liberty on the ground that, while they could be refused admission to Canada if they did not pay the poll-tax, once inside Canada, whether they paid the poll-tax or not, they could not be interfered with. The decision was reversed with consideration in British Columbia, first seemed to put a premium on smuggling, since regarding the Chinamen as contraband, the high duty would naturally tempt adventurers to get them ashore. The matter was brought to the attention of the Canadian Government, which was called upon to enact additional restrictive measures which would have the effect of providing against the continuance of an obvious anomaly. If a man who had been smuggled into Canada without payment of the poll-tax were thereby a citizen of Canada, the whole intention of the law was defeated. Last month, we learnt, a Government measure was read, a second time in the Canadian Senate specially designed to deal with those Chinese who have landed on Canadian soil without leave or licence. The Bill enacts that: 'Every person of Chinese origin who—(a) lands or attempts to land in Canada without payment of the tax payable under this Act; or—(b) willfully evades or attempts to evade any of the provisions of this Act as respects the payment of the tax by personating any other individual; or—(c) willfully makes use of or attempts to make use of any forged or fraudulent certificate issued to any other person for any purpose connected with this Act is guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or to both.' It is also provided that: 'Persons of Chinese origin shall, if guilty of an offence under the last preceding sub-section in addition to the said penalties, also be liable to deportation.' That clause should certainly meet the requirements of the Canadian law, and is entirely in accordance with Canadian sentiment. The regulations governing the admission of persons specially exempted from payment of the poll-tax have been revised and now stand as follows:—Paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of section 7 of the said Act is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:—(c) (1) Merchants, their wives and minor children; (2) The wives and minor children of clergyman; (3) Tourists; (4) Men of science; (5) Students under, seven years of age; (6) Subject to such regulations as may from time to time be made by the Governor-in-Council, duly certified teachers, who shall substantiate their status to the satisfaction of the Controller, subject to the approval of the Minister, or who are bearers of certificates of identity, or who are similar documents issued by the Government or by a recognized official or representative of the Government whose subjects they are, specifying their occupation and their object in coming into Canada. It will be seen that the law is in no way changed in principle, only the existing loopholes by which Chinese coolies who had been surreptitiously landed in Canada and thereby became *de facto* Canadian citizens, have been shut out so that effect may be given to the original object of the law. The Vancouver *World* speaking of the clause which grants 'free admission' to Chinese merchants, tourists, etc., remarks: 'The effect of this clause is to give the officials greater control over the immigration, that is, larger discretion in refusing admission under the exemption clause. As they possibly have the effect of putting a stop to the practice of bringing Chinese coolies

servants in as students and sending them to the public schools for a year to qualify." If it were further provided that after a specified period Chinese students must return to their own country, all the legitimate objects of the exemption would still be attainable but its use for the purpose of evading the poll-tax would be less feasible.

WHEN BRITISH SEAMEN ROLL THE ROOST.

(25th June.)

Considering the importance of Hongkong in the shipping world, the agitation which is being fostered by the Seamen's Union of Great Britain against the employment of Chinese labour on British vessels is of more than passing interest to this Colony, where the bulk of the crews on local craft are Chinese. The representatives of the seamen in Parliament are not apparently so much concerned with the conditions prevailing in the Crown Colonies of the Far East as with the facilities afforded the English shipowner of engaging Chinese crews at the great shipping ports of the United Kingdom. To them the question of completing the crew's complement on coastwise steamers in China sailing under the British flag is a mere detail which is beside the subject, but to the agents of vessels plying between Hongkong and the Northern ports it is bound to be a matter of serious concern. And, from what can be gathered, it is the intention of the Imperial Government to interfere with the established practice both in the Straits Settlements and Hongkong of manning local steamers with British officers and engineers and Chinese deck hands and stokers. How otherwise can Mr. Winston Churchill's statement regarding the birth and language test of Chinese seamen and firemen from the Straits and Hongkong be interpreted? The latest telegram on the subject says that "the Board of Trade in communication with the Colonial Office in reference to facilities for providing natives of the Colonies and protectorates, especially the Straits and Hongkong, with birth certificates," and although there is the possibility that the intention is to apply that to those Chinese shipping on ocean-going steamers, there is always the danger that the House of Commons will ignore the claims of the Crown Colonies to special consideration. Even if it be made to apply to ocean-going vessels calling at Hongkong, the situation is serious. According to the report of Captain Basil Taylor, R.N., the Harbour-master, 362 ocean-going British vessels entered Hongkong in 1907. The nationality of the crews carried is given as follows: 2,976 British, 638 other Europeans and Americans, and 115,474 Asiatics. To put it in another way, 16.5 per cent. of the crews carried were British; 4.5 per cent. were other Europeans; and no less than 83 per cent. were Asiatics. If, say, a quarter of that 83 per cent. of Asiatic sailors can produce certificates to show that they were born on British soil, we should be vastly surprised, and in that event what is to become of the already hand-to-mouth existence which many vessels are obtaining if they are precluded from employing Chinese who cannot prove themselves to be British-born and fail to pass the language test? They are bound to go to the wall and the trade must necessarily pass to those competitors who are not handicapped by such restrictions. It is not for a moment to be contended that if the Chinese seamen and stokers who had neglected the important duty of coming into this toilsome world under the flag of the British flag were summarily ejected from the vessels on which they had served for years, their places would be taken immediately or even eventually by British seamen, for as a matter of fact the number of British seamen is little more than sufficient to go round the home mercantile fleet as it is, and will decline to assert that the sea as a calling for the ordinary sailor cannot hope to rise beyond the rank of boy-swallows possesses any transcendental charms. The pay is meagre, the life is hard, and the fare is just as moderate as the Board of Trade regulations will permit. Naturally, then, the average lad prefers to spend his life ashore, enjoying the freedom and privileges enjoined on employers of labour by numerous Acts of Parliament. So that, if the Chinese are excluded from serving on British vessels because of their neglect to register as British subjects or failure to acquire the necessary knowledge of "pidgin" English, they must be supplied by crews drawn from the continental ports. What precise advantage the honest British sailor would derive from the displacement of the meek Celestial by the fiery-tempered Dago is not exactly clear to the average landman. Wages would not be seriously affected from the European standpoint, but British owners in the Far East would find themselves practically compelled to enlist the services of the first English-speaking beachcomber who came along and trust to luck that their vessels would muddle through. Undoubtedly in this part of the world the working expenses of coasting ships would advance. We may be told that one European is equal to three Chinamen any and every day in the week, but we may be allowed to beg leave to doubt the statement. Will the aforesaid British tar maintain that the dregs of some Mediterranean port are individually equal to three Chinamen at all times? We rather fancy that he will hesitate to express an opinion on the point and we cannot blame him for his reticence. We say nothing about the habits of the ordinary A. B. as compared with those of the Chinaman, or the anxiety of masters regarding their crews when the time of departure draws nigh. That is a subject which may best be left alone, for it is certain that masters and forecable hands will never agree on the point. What we do hold is, that if the Chinese are excluded from all (and we admit legislation is required) it is being started at the wrong end. If by this latest scheme of ameliorating the condition of seamen and firemen the difficulties of shipowners in making both ends meet are rendered more acute—the result is bound to recoil on the heads of those who fall to see beyond the length of their respective noses. The Hongkong coasting trade, always in a precarious state, will be peculiarly for the benefit of the by no means large number of British seamen in England and the aggravation of paid seafarers. No doubt we shall have a flourishing traffic in the concoction of bogus birth certificates and possibly a few enterprising individuals may reap a miniature harvest by drilling gangs of likely-looking Chinese deck-hands in the use and meaning of such phrases as "abaft the beam," "hard-a-port" and hold her there," with various ornamental additions according to the skill and ability of the officers of seafaring, but so far as Hongkong is concerned the advantages to be derived from such legislation as that hinted it will be vastly on the other side. It will be the British owner who will suffer, and if he suffers it is hardly probable that the interests of the British seamen will be greatly advanced. We are quite aware that there are half a dozen aspects of this intricate question, but as far as Hongkong is concerned the passing of any legislation which would deprive Chinese of their birthright of employment on British vessels is bound to be a disaster to the Colony, and it is not to be expected that the Government will do so.

HONGKONG REVIEWED BY THE GOVERNOR.

After the breezy, emphatic and trenchant report which was submitted by an official in the Governor's service the other day, on the subject of the general condition of the Colony, it might have been expected that after eleven months' occupancy of the chair at Government House the Governor would have sought to give expression to his views on the actual conditions prevalent in the commercial life of the Colony, but beyond the dry statistics submitted by the heads of departments there is no deviation from the straight path of official exactitude. For example, no mention is made of the necessity for economy in the expenditure of the Colony, which has been one of the features of the Governor's administration. The present Governor and his predecessor, the late Governor, the Estimates to the Legislative Council during the past two or three years. The fact is that the revenue was over \$5,000,000, and that the expenditure was just over \$5,000,000, but there is no comment on the principle no doubt that figures speak for themselves. Considerable space is devoted to the shipping of Hongkong, which is as it should be, remembering the importance of the shipping trade to the Colony. "Sixteen Ordinances were passed in 1907, but with the exception of the extension of the local jurisdiction to the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Life Insurance Companies Ordinance, the Seditious Publications Ordinance, and the new Companies law as to local registers none was of great moment. The action devoted to the public works of the Colony is severely precise. With regard to the Tung Wah Hospital, which is in the public eye at the present time, in consequence of its extension in connection with the floods in Kwangtung and Kwangsi, a simple explanation of the manifold duties carried out by the institution is given. The Governor writes:—"This Hospital, opened in 1872, is mainly supported by the voluntary subscriptions of Chinese but receives an annual grant of \$3,000 from the Government. Only Chinese are treated in this institution which takes the place of a poor-house and hospital for Chinese sick and destitute. Various other services not appertaining to a hospital are performed by the institution such as the free burial of the poor, the repatriation of destitute, and the organization of 'charitable relief in emergencies.' Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or their friends. About half the number are now treated by Western methods and the number is steadily increasing. The hospital is managed by a committee of Chinese gentlemen annually elected, their appointment being submitted to the Governor for confirmation; it is under the direct charge of the resident surgeon, paid by the Government, and is under the supervision of a visiting physician who is a member of the Medical Department." The total number of regular troops in the Colony at the end of 1907 was 3,564 officers, non-commissioned officers and men and for their services the Colony paid the quite respectable sum of \$1,214,340, or 20 per cent. of the Colony's revenue. There is nothing very new expounded under the head of "General observations." The Colony's trade was depressed, the assessments fell, but why they fell is not exactly suggested, progress was made in the New Territories—and a remarkable fact stated, viz., "The Crown Rent (Land Tax) was paid with an alacrity that was almost inconceivable," the subsidiary coinage was a nuisance, and authorities in Peking and Canton urging the suspension of the coinage of small coins at the Canton Mint until the coins had again reached par, and so forth. There is nothing very illuminating in the report and the personal element is sedulously excluded, but as a report it may prove a handy work of reference.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

THE WEST RIVER.

EMBANKMENTS FLOODED.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Canton, 19th June.

The water in the West River has risen considerably. On the 18th inst., the embankments in Ching-yuen and Samshui districts, in many places, gave way and many houses have been submerged.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

THE YUNNAN INCIDENT.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 19th June.

The French Minister at Peking has demanded certain minor concessions in Yunnan as reparation for the killing of the French commanders by the Yunnan troops.

GERMANY AND CHINA.

NAVIGATION OF THE POYANG LAKE.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 19th June.

An understanding has been come to between the Waiwupu and the German Minister at Peking whereby in future no German gunboats will cruise the Poyang Lake except in case of emergency.

CHINESE TELEGRAPHS.

SHANGHAI SUPERINTENDENT SUMMONED TO Peking.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 19th June.

H.E. Chang Pih, President of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, has telegraphed for the superintendent of the Shanghai Telegraph Office, to proceed to Peking forthwith and confer on matters in connection with the purchase of the shares from the shareholders of the Chinese Telegraph Administration.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

YIELDING TO POPULAR CLAMOUR.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 10th June.

The Grand Councillors held a meeting the other day, when it was decided to grant Constitutional Government within ten years' time. It has been found impossible to resist the wishes of the masses.

THE YUNNAN INCIDENT.

SETTLEMENT CONCLUDED.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 21st June.

The Yunnan frontier incident has been settled by the Waiwupu with the French Minister upon terms which are reported to be disadvantageous to China.

CHINESE TELEGRAPHS.

SHANG KUNG-PO'S HOLDING.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 21st June.

The Ministry of Posts and Communications has instructed Sheng Kung-po to surrender 900 of his shares in the Chinese Telegraph Administration and to receive payment therefor from the National Bank of China at \$170 a share so as to set an example to the other shareholders.

Shanghai, 21st June.

A meeting of the Telegraph Co. shareholders was held on the 20th inst. at the Yu Yuen Gardens, when a committee, under the chairmanship of Wu Kei, was appointed to reject the Government nationalization scheme.

A charge of 20 cents will be made on every share to provide funds for the expenses of the campaign; any deficiency will be made good by Wu Kei.

Telegrams have been despatched to the Imperial Government, the Ministries of Justice, and Posts and Communications opposing the scheme.

THE FLOOD.

CANTON UNDER WATER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Shameen, 22nd June, 1.30 p.m.

Canton is flooded. Many streets have been under water, over a foot in height, for the past three days.

Samshui district has suffered most from the inundation.

Most of the dykes have given way. The city itself is submerged. Numerous houses have collapsed and over a hundred lives are reported to have been lost in the city of Samshui itself.

The Kwangchow prefect, under orders from the Viceroy, left here yesterday afternoon on board a Chinese gunboat for Samshui.

The gunboat carries a cargo of rice to relieve the most urgent cases of those who have been left homeless and penniless by the flood.

It is feared that a calamity impends over the inundated district, which cover an extensive area, from Kwei-lin downwards to Samshui.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

PRINCE CHING'S VIEW.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 21st June.

At the meeting of the Grand Councillors held the other day, Prince Ching and Duke A-shi expressed themselves as in favour of the granting of Constitutional Government within a period of six years.

NATIONAL BONDS.

ISSUE DEFERRED.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 21st June.

Prince Ching and H.E. Chang Chih-tung are in favour of deferring the issue of National Bonds.

ARMS SEIZURE.

ATTEMPTED SMUGGLING.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 22nd June.

H.E. Chang Jan-chun, Viceroy of Canton, reports that the Imperial Maritime Customs at Canton, has seized one hundred rifles which were covered by a false permit.

The Waiwupu has replied by telegram that the rifles should be confiscated in accordance with the Customs' regulations.

YUNNAN.

ESCAPE OF THE REBEL LEADER.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 22nd June.

The Viceroy and Governor of Yunnan and Kweichow Provinces, in a joint memorial, report that the leader of the rebels, who misrepresented himself as Sun Yat Sen, has escaped to Europe.

SHANGHAI "CAUSE CELEBRE."

CHINESE ACTOR IN TROUBLE.

CANTONESE GUILD ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN PROSECUTORS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, 23rd June, 2.30 p.m.

The Chinese actor Li Chun-lai, who was tried before the Mixed Court of Shanghai on a charge of seducing a Chinese widow, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

[This case has been a cause celebre in Shanghai for weeks past. At the first hearing there was a violent altercation between the Chinese magistrate Pao and the American lawyer Mr. Jernigan, who represented the prisoner. The magistrate declared that the accused was a rascal and his guilt certain. Mr. Jernigan held that the magistrate had no right to prejudge the case, whereupon there was a scene of angry wrangling which resulted in the Court rising. On the 16th inst., the Shanghai Mercury stated that the matter had engaged the attention of the Consular body for the past few weeks and that the settlement was come to as a result of a meeting held at the Chinese Foreign Office, in which representatives of the Chinese and American Governments were present. This being so, the case was set down for hearing at the Mixed Court when the accused Li Chun-lai, who is a well-known actor, was brought up to answer the charge laid against him. It was well known that the Cantonese Guild had a great interest in the prosecution of this case, and a large attendance of the Cantonese community was expected to be present in Court. The police had made preparations for the case to be heard in an upper court room and only those persons having a direct interest in the case were allowed to be present during the proceedings. Magistrate Pao and Mr. Hamilton Butler (American Assessor) were on the bench. Mr. T. Morgan Phillips appeared on behalf of the prosecution and Mr. T. R. Jernigan and Mr. S. Fessenden for the defence. —Edw. H. K. T.]

THE YUNNAN AFFAIR.

FRENCH DEMANDS.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 23rd June.

The demands formulated by the French Minister in Peking, in connection with the Yunnan frontier incident, are as follows:—

1. Dismissal of H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy of Yunnan.
2. Compensation for losses sustained by the Yunnan-Annam Railway.
3. Indemnity of \$200,000 for the relatives of the deceased soldiers.
4. Concession for a railway from Taiyuan, in Shan-si Province, to Si-nan, in Shen-si.

The Waiwupu resists the demands as firmly as ever.

U.S. BATTLESHIP FLEET.

THE WELCOME COMMISSIONER.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 23rd June.

Some time ago the Waiwupu proposed to designate Vice-President Luang Tun-jin to Army to welcome the American Fleet. As urgent business detained His Excellency at the Capital, Taotai Mak Sun-kin will be deputed instead.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

A STRAITS PETITION.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 23rd June.

A petition by the Chinese residing in the Straits Settlements, praying for Constitutional Government, has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, for transmission to the Imperial Government.

PAKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

BUYING BACK THE ROAD.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 23rd June.

It has been resolved by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to buy back the Peking-Hankow Railway.

AN EDITOR'S JAUNT.

FROM SEOUL TO SHANGHAI ON A WARSHIP.

MR. BETHELL'S "IMPRISONMENT" TO BE SERVED AT SHANGHAI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, 24th June, 2.55 p.m.

H.M.S. *Cliff* brought Mr. E. Bethell, late Editor and proprietor of the *Korea Daily News*, and former Editor of Korean vernacular papers to Shanghai to-day, in order that he may serve his sentence of three weeks' imprisonment, which was imposed by the British Court in Korea on the charge that he had incited the natives to sedition contrary to the terms of His Majesty's Order in Council.

Mr. Bethell will be held during the term of his sentence as a first-class misdemeanant in the British Consular Gaol at Shanghai.

THE YUNNAN AFFAIR.

MORE FRENCH DEMANDS.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 24th June.

The French Minister has again presented a series of six demands to the Waiwupu in connection with the killing of French soldiers in Yunnan.

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA.

THE NOTE ISSUE.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 24th June.

It is proposed by the Board of Revenue that bank-notes shall only be issued by the National Bank of China, and that no other bank will be accorded that privilege, with a view of preventing abuses.

CHINESE TELEGRAPHS.

REDUCTION IN CHARGES.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 24th June.

H. E. Chang Pih, president of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, has decided to reduce the telegraph rates by thirty per cent. Later.

PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

ROAD TO BE BOUGHT BACK.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 24th June.

The Ministry of Posts and Communications has decided to buy back the Peking-Hankow Railway.

TAXATION.

NO INCREASE IN FUTURE.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 25th June.

The Grand Councillors have received instructions from the Emperor Dowager that, in future, no matter what happens, no increase in the burden of taxation will be sanctioned.

PARLIAMENT FOR CHINA.

DATE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 25th June.

The Grand Councillors have met on several occasions for the purpose of discussing the date when a Parliament for China will be instituted. It is stated that the date for the granting of constitutional government will be made known in a month's time.

DISMISSED OFFICIALS.

APPEAL FOR REINSTATEMENT.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 25th June.

Several hundred officials in the two Kwang Provinces, who had been dismissed from office, have sent representatives to Peking to present a petition to the Ministry of Justice for their reinstatement.

SALT.

INCREASE IN PRICE.

(By courtesy of the "Sheung Po.")

Peking, 25th June.

The Board of Revenue has received Imperial authority to increase the price of salt in various provinces.

THE MATCH INDUSTRY IN JAPAN.

The Nagoya Guild of Match Manufacturers raised the price of matches by 10 per cent. on the 10th inst., but it has not produced the desired effect of improving the position of the industry. After two days' conference, on the 13th and 14th inst., the guild agreed to suspend operations in the match factories on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and 31st of every month and to reduce the working hours from 12 to 10 a day for the purpose of reducing the output.

King's Birthday Honours.

HONGKONG CITIZENS RECOGNISED.

MR. WEI YUK, C.M.G.; MR. J. DYER, B.A., L.B.O.

According to the text of a telegram which was received at the office of the Colonial Secretary to-day the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, one of the nominated representatives of the Chinese community by the Government on the Legislative Council, and Mr. J. Dyer Ball, a member of the Civil Service, have been recipients of His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours. We are officially informed that a telegraphic message from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Government of Hongkong states that Mr. Wei Yuk has been appointed a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, while Mr. J. Dyer Ball has been made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

The friends of Mr. Wei Yuk and Mr. Dyer Ball will heartily congratulate them on the distinction conferred on them by His Majesty the King.

THE LATE EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

SYMPATHETIC DEMONSTRATION IN HONGKONG.

Late this afternoon the flags on board the British and Foreign men-of-war in harbour, at Government House, and all the foreign consulates were hoisted at half-mast out of respect for the death of Mr. Grover Cleveland, ex-President of the United States of America. Half-hour guns were fired by the warships in port.

THE RECENT HONGKONG DIPLOMA CASE.

Mr. D. Stevenson, solicitor, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, made an application to the Chief Justice, in the Bankruptcy Court, this morning, for a receiving order in the case of Captain T. A. Mitchell, master of the steamer *Fochang*. Mr. Stevenson, in support of his application, stated that petitioner's debts amounted to \$10,763. He had paid \$500 into Court. The petitioner attributed his financial embarrassment to legal divorce proceedings against his wife in Scotland, and his inability to recover damages from the co-defendant owing to the imperfect legislation in this Colony. The application was granted.

JAPANESE WOMEN ABROAD.

UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITY IN MANCHURIA.

From reports submitted by the Japanese Consuls abroad the total number of male Japanese in the end of 1907 in all parts of the world exclusive of Japan is estimated at 94,707 and that of females at 37,191, making a total of 131,898. This number, classified according to the leading countries of residence, is as follows:—

	Males	Females	Inclusive
Hawaii	19,500	7,282	
Manchuria			
North China	10,028	24,091	
South China	3,753	10,057	
Viadivostok	1,745	3,065	
Canada	1,124	7,694	
United States	300	1,518	
Australia	271	518	
India	218	217	
Mexico	119	1,087	
Siam	63	190	
England	33	359	
France	17	135	
Belgium	14	42	
Russia	9	48	
South America	5	68	
Austria	4	27	
Switzerland	4	75	
Germany	4	75	
Italy	2	11	

These figures, which are taken from a Japanese paper, are evidently incorrect.

—Editor J. C.

As shown above, a large number of Japanese women are in Hawaii, but the majority of these are members of the families of Japanese immigrants. For evidence of the remarkable activity shown by Japanese women of dubious character, we must look in the case of Manchuria, North China, and Viadivostok. The numbers of this class of women in comparison with those having a respectable station in life, as returned in the Consular reports, are given below:—

	Total number of Women	Women of dubious character.
Antung.....	1,915	604
Taikeishan	27	17
Maikden	1,377	796
Chiehling	981	503
Mauchung	500	323
Arbin.....	459	433
Madivonok.....	1,795	1,743

is only just to say that every endeavour by the authorities of this country to curb the number of Japanese women abroad has had the effect of removing the dubious character from being increased.

San Chirochi.

of the meeting was concluded.

CALAMITOUS FLOODS.

WEST RIVER DISTRICTS UNDER WATER.

WUCHOW, SHIU-HING, TAK-HING SUBMERGED.

SAMSHUI IN DIREFUL DISTRESS.

Another of those tremendous freshets which periodically overwhelm the riverine cities of China, leaving ruin and desolation in their track, and utterly undoing the labours of years, has occurred, the centre of the catastrophe on this occasion being the important trading city of Wuchow, which, with the exception of the walled city, has been practically wiped out of existence, while all the treaty ports along the West River have suffered enormous loss and damage. It is impossible at the present time to form the slightest conception of the death-roll, although it must beyond question comprise hundreds of the West River floating population, and hundreds of residents in Wuchow itself. The West River, from all descriptions, has overspread its banks for miles around, carrying with it a constant stream of wrecked junks, upturned sampans, demolished buildings and all the flotsam and jetsam which are to be found on the banks of a waterway of the commercial consequence of the West River. From an observer who was on the scene of the disaster which has befallen the people of Wuchow, and other villages we have been able to secure a graphic and thrilling description of the terrible occurrences.

seventy to seventy-two feet, which, if we are not mistaken, is a record for previously known floods on the Fu River. The two tins which marked the height to which the last great flood had attained beside Mr. Banker's residence were discovered by two Europeans, one of whom was Mr. Cunningham, of Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. That is to say, the strength of the water had snapped them off in its course, in order to make room for a new and greater record. In 1907, the flood reached the height, according to the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Wuchow, of 61.9 feet above zero, the date on that occasion being the 23rd of April, which was the highest point recorded during the previous 67 years. When that is compared with the 70 or 72 feet attained last week, the extraordinary character of the sudden "spate" will be more vividly realised. And when we state that the 61 feet tide of 1907 resulted in general distress among the inhabitants for three weeks, the probable effect of the present cataclysm will be the better appreciated.

ENTIRE HOUSES SWEEP AWAY.

By Friday the junction of the two rivers was a heterogeneous mass of wrecked

smaller class of buildings the final dissolution of things. Some managed to drag with them articles of clothing, after foraging for bread and the means of subsistence, in order to guard against the inevitable exposure which attended a lengthy stay on the house-tops, but many only succeeded in escaping with their lives. A few managed to erect improvised shelters from the rains with the aid of rickety bamboo poles and preposterous awnings composed of anything that came to hand. Men, women and children were huddled together in their miserable plight hoping for the best but doubtless expecting the worst.

SCENE ON THE RIVER.

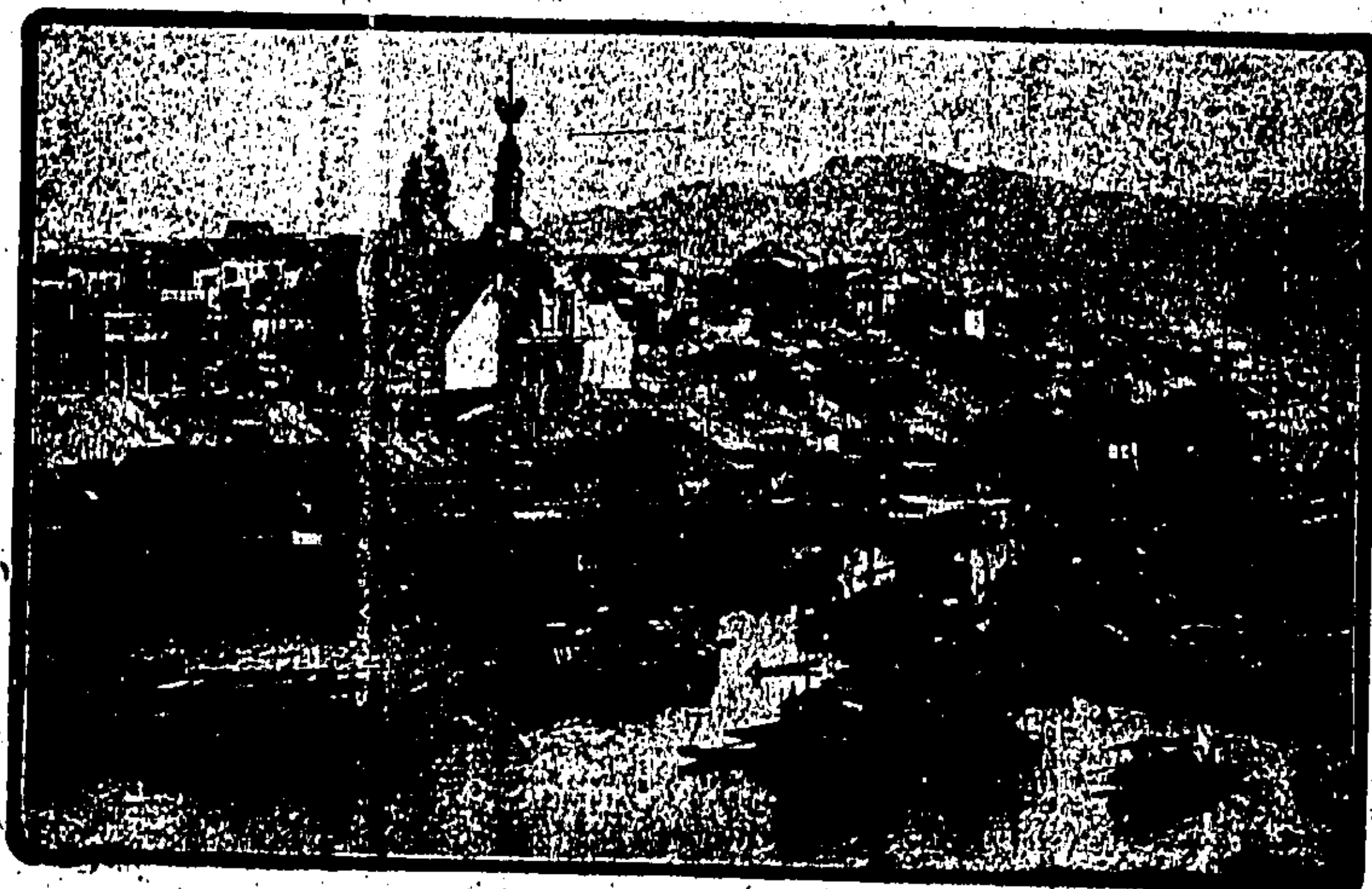
Before them the river was sweeping along on its bosom, numerous hongs, or ples as they are called in Wuchow, and some of these floating pontoons are lying thirty miles away from their erstwhile anchorage. Dead bodies and coffins were being whirled down by the current and it is believed that many cemeteries must have been erased by the violence of the freshet. Some few of the greater floating hongs withstood the strain on account of the extra moorings provided for them, notably those

rent. A boat pushed off from the steamer could without danger of colliding with hidden obstructions reach the parapets of the tall buildings several hundred yards away from the centre of the river. Only the topmost spire of the pagoda remained visible, the rest having vanished under water. On every side the water stretched practically to the horizon, especially along the lower reaches of the river where in many places land was out of sight on either hand. Quite a number of the larger junks has sought refuge in the numerous fish ponds for which Wuchow is famous.

THE SURVIVORS.

What impressed our informant most was the pitiful position of the remaining population who perched on the roofs of those few houses which rose above the utmost height reached by the flood and who clung together for mutual support before death, which loomed imminent, released them from their unhappy condition of unmitigated misery and wretchedness. How many of them had food to last them through their privations? Probably not half those had taken themselves to the roofs, and there are hundreds packed together, looking as if they

ed by the drought in the early part of the season and which was not expected to yield more than 30 per cent, has been washed away so that nothing remains to reward the labourers for their work. Altogether it is a awful condition of total destruction, loss and ruin that has to be faced. Neither the amount of the damage wrought by the flood nor the total loss of life can even be hinted at for the present. The loss to property is incalculable; the loss of life will never be accurately known; it can only be guessed at and the roughest guess will be wide of the mark.



WUCHOW.

THE FU RIVER FLOOD.

On the afternoon of Wednesday last, the 17th inst., the witness, to whom we have referred, arrived at Wuchow. The people appeared to be on the verge of distraction, fearful that the rapidly rising river would engulf them. Wuchow, it may be stated, stands at the junction of the Fu or Kuei River and the West River, the former falling directly from Kweilin, the capital of Kwangsi, into the greater waterway at Wuchow, the trade entrepot. It was perfectly obvious to the least observant that the Fu River was in flood, and even on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 17th, evidences were not wanting that the city was in danger of being submerged. The torrent was coming down the Fu-ho, as it is locally termed, at the rate of eight or nine knots an hour, the sea-horses cresting the waves and striking fear into the hearts of those whose lives were spent alongside the river. The force of the water was terrific, and already wreckage of every description was being washed along.

material which was almost as destructive to anything withstanding its direct passage as the furious current itself. Entire Chinese wooden houses were rocking violently, with never a sign of their former inhabitants to be seen. Four together were observed from the deck of a steamer anchored at Wuchow, sweeping their way down to the Canton delta. It is believed that these houses came all the way from Kweilin.

REFUGE ON ROOF TOPS.

Meanwhile the inhabitants of Wuchow, outside the walled city, had long since abandoned themselves to despair. The river rose with such extraordinary rapidity and spread over the adjoining country so completely that almost before they had time to think of escape, the deluge was upon them, overflowing the lower rooms and mounting higher and higher with every minute that passed. The unfortunate people were gathering their household goods together and removing them to the higher storeys until they found themselves finally

of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Butterfield and Swire, and that of the Customs. The greater number of the flower boats have been carried down river and many can be seen between Wuchow and Dosing.

BRITISH CONSULATE SAFE.

Owing to its position on the hill the British Consulate at Wuchow is safe and the Consul has not been obliged to change his quarters. But the Wuchow Club is within the range of the inundation. It is impossible to convey in words the actual extent of the calamity which has overtaken Wuchow, except in the most general terms, and not only Wuchow, but the entire territory right along the river banks as far as Samshui and Sainam.

HEIGHT OF THE FLOOD.

When seen by our informant the waters of the conjoined rivers at Wuchow had risen far above all but the highest building seen in the background of the first illustration which we publish. Where there had been

VILLAGE SWEEP AWAY.

Yuet Shing, one of the ports of call of the Steamboat Company's vessels, was entirely submerged, only the roof of the pawnshop being visible. Tak Hing was in similar state. At Samshui, where the Commissioner of Customs together with his family were driven out of the Customs station by the invading stream, and had to take refuge in house boats, the railroad had disappeared, all that could be seen being the top of the railway carriages and the smoke-black of a locomotive. One of the villages between Samshui and Sainam has been entirely swept away. The catalogue of disaster

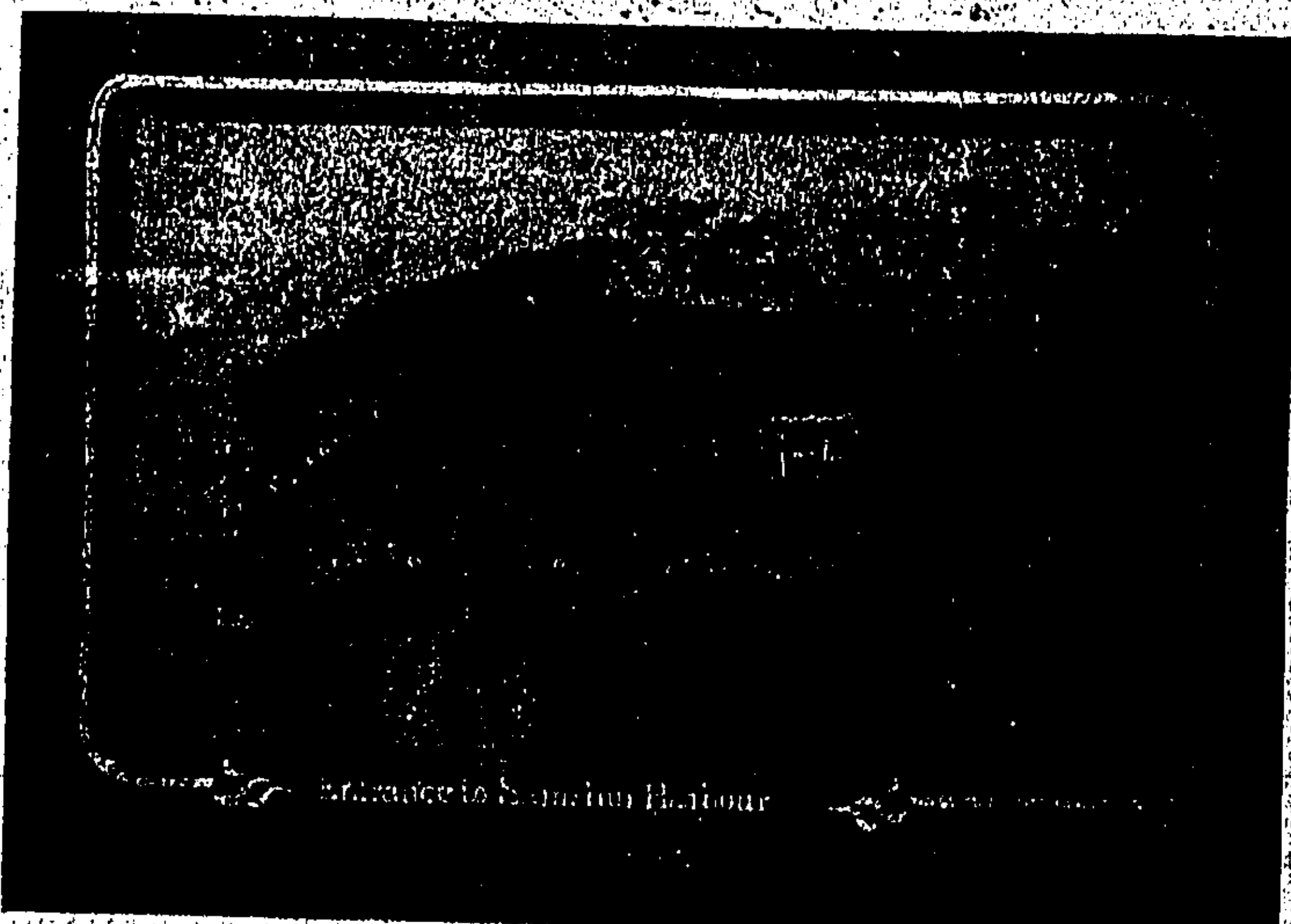
sat on the keel of an upturned boat. And the difficulty of rescuing these survivors of the terrible visitation can be well understood when it is borne in mind that few of the numerous small craft of the river remain afloat. At Samshui a few of the larger vessels may remain, having managed to evade the vortex of the stream. One great native passenger boat was seen sailing round and behind the European houses.

AT SAMSHUI.

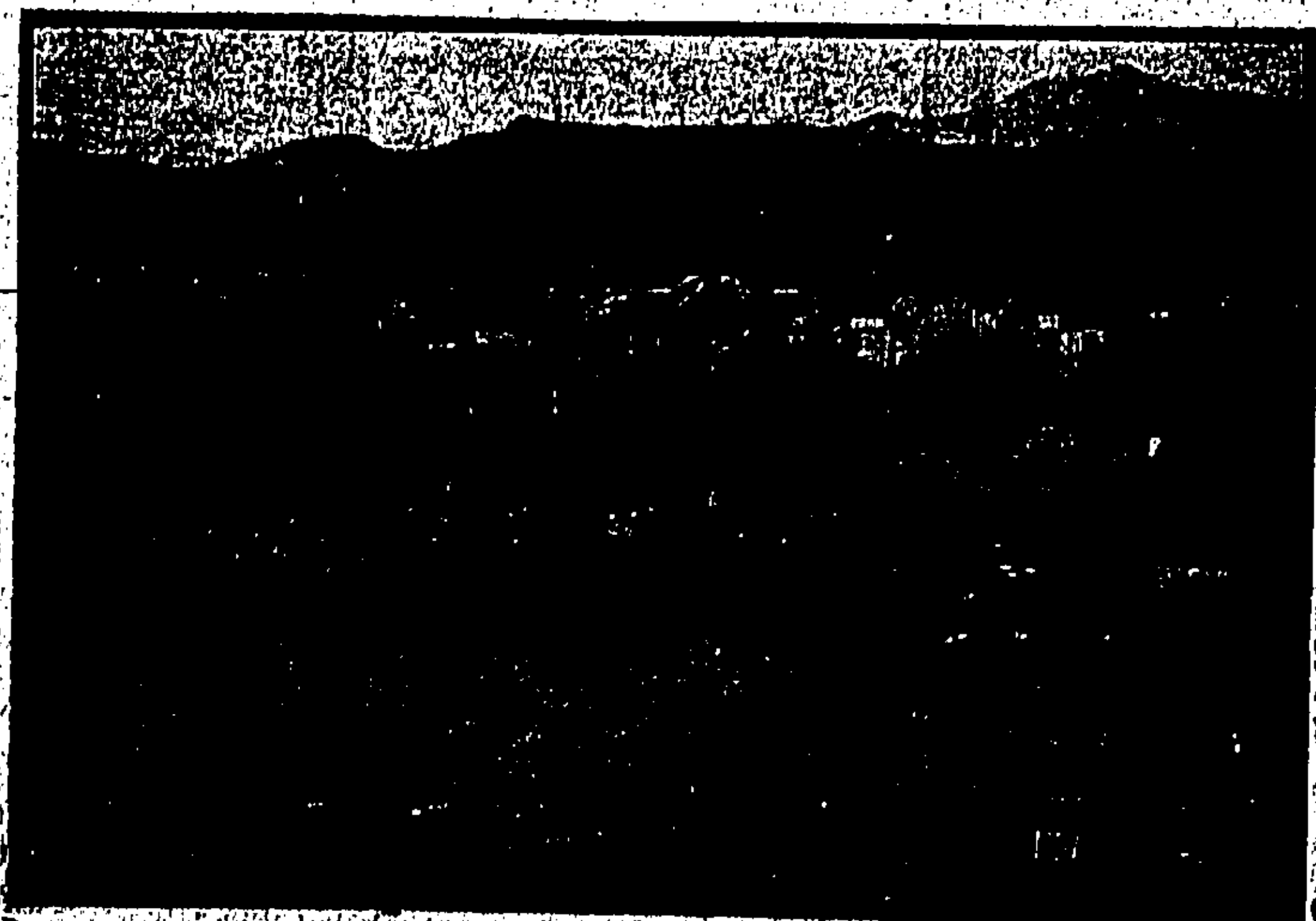
At Samshui, again, the inhabitants are trying to raise embankments by driving immense piles into the ground and bolstering them up with bags of sand along the banks.

THE SITUATION.

How the authorities are to cope with the distressing position, which has come upon the people like a bolt from the blue, remains to be seen, but that they will require outside assistance to relieve the starving multitude is absolutely a foregone conclusion. Wuchow is credited with a population of 70,000, but we are still in the dark as to how many of that number resided beyond the limits of the walled city. It is certain, however, that a great proportion will find themselves in the position of suppliants for the wherewithal to chase away the pangs of hunger. In 1902, when there was a great



Entrance to Samshui Harbour



VIEW OF WUCHOW AND THE FU HO RIVER

A RECORD FRESHET.

In a single night the river had risen forty feet and on Friday it reached a height of

compelled to relinquish their cities and clustering strings of sampans and junks, and climb upon the roofs in order to escape what where low-roofed sheds and houses had been for many who lived in the flood was a vast expanse of nothing but

and destruction could be interminably continued, but it is needless to enlarge on the amazing character of the freshet which has exterminated numerous villages, wrought inestimable injury to Wuchow, which was slowly recovering from the devastating effects of the fire which occurred a year ago, blocked all traffic on the railway for an unknown period, swallowed up the means of communication, including the telegraphic stations and the wires along the route, brought stark ruin to innumerable homes and swept hundreds of coolies to their death.

As steamers pass along they are warned by the beating of gongs to slow down, in order that the wash from the propellers may not undo the efforts of the labourers. Bamboo groves are submerged to such a depth that passenger steamers can sail through them without fear of grounding.

As already stated there is no means of communication whatever. Officials are depending on passing steamers for news of what is being done to meet the situation and alleviate the distress which already exists.

RICE CROP DESTROYED.

The rice crop which was partially destroyed

flood at Wuchow, with the resultant famine, the Government of Hongkong rose to the occasion and sent a Commission, composed of Mr. Gernhom Stewart and Mr. C. Clement, to distribute the funds which had been raised in this Colony for the benefit of the people in Kwangsi. Then it was that Captain Dixon, who was at that time superintendent for Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and the Joint Steamboat Company, nailed a tin plate on one of the tallest trees at Wuchow to mark the height which the flood had reached. The freshet which occurred last week, however, exceeded even



that mark, which is evidence of the height to which it reached.

One of the questions which will be asked by those who have the recent Hankow calamity in mind is—Did the authorities at Wuchow receive any information indicating that a freshet had formed in the Fu River? The answer, we understand, is that a communication was sent from Kweilin to Wuchow, but it arrived so late that the inundation was upon the people before they had time to make adequate preparations for their safety. When it is remembered that the river rose 40 feet in a single night there seems reason to believe that the answer may be accepted as correct, however lamentable the fact may be.

At all events it behoves the Government, the leading members of the European and Chinese communities and the local commercial institutions to consider what steps shall be taken to relieve these homeless, ruined people at Wuchow, for however urgent our own needs may be at the moment, and none knows better than we do the deplorable financial condition of the Colony, we ought still to be able to spare something for the suffering survivors who have lost their all in the cataclysm at Wuchow.

that in a general way, from the sea to Wuchow, all is fair sailing, though it is a different tale from this to Nanking, by the Kweilin River to the capital; for this tributary of the main river, locally known as the Fu-ho, and elliptically as the Kuei-chiang is in fact a mountain torrent. Its current is, as a rule, slow; but in the early summer, before the main river has risen high, its waters come down with a tremendous rush and a roar that reminds one of the sound of Niagara. Later on it becomes dammed up by the water of the main stream, and the strength of its floods does not reach its mouth.

WHIRLPOOL AT WUCHOW. WHOLE VILLAGES SWEEP AWAY.

Wuchow, 18th June.

The yearly freshets are running, but with unusual violence. Hardly had the telegraphic warning arrived from Kweilin when the water rose 40 feet in a few hours and inundated the whole town. The loss of property is very great in Wuchow, but must be even greater higher up the river as wrecks of hundreds of boats are drifting past; parts of houses, furniture and even coffins are seen in the furious current. Happily not many dead bodies are seen, but they are, of course, not much noticed amongst the more conspicuous objects. Salvage operations are rendered extremely difficult in the

and, the latter number is far too low. Rumours are about that whole villages up the river, in the narrow parts, have been swept away. And this sad news is too well confirmed by the enormous amount of wreckage still passing.

APPEAL FOR HELP. CANTON SUCCOURING.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 20th June.

The heavy and continuous rain of the last few days, which has caused inundation and also done damage here as already reported, has been responsible for a great deal of serious damage by flood in the higher districts of Ching Yuen and Samshui and the surrounding districts. Yesterday the gentry of the Ching Yuen district hurriedly arrived here and called at the Ching Rice Distribution Bureau. The gentry reported that, owing to the heavy and continuous downpour for almost the whole of last week, the river has risen to such an extent that on the 18th and 19th instant the water overflowed the sea dykes, which were consequently greatly damaged, many parts being washed away and otherwise collapsed. The cities are inundated to a height of seven or eight feet and the houses have suffered considerably, especially those in the lower grounds where they are now lying in the water and are literally engulfed.

"TAISO-MARU" DAMAGES.

The Taiso, Shokai, owners of the Taiso-maru, have presented the account of the damages to be claimed from China in connection with the detention of the vessel. The total amount claimed is Y2,500, consisting of Y5,000 for detention and loss from the suspension of the voyage; Y2,500 for telegraph and sundry charges, and money paid as compensation to the crew and to the family of the captain, who, as stated in our columns, died soon after the vessel's release; Y10,000 for the damage to the cargo; Y4,000 for the landing of cargo for inspection and godown rent, and Y45,000 for the repair of the steamer and expenses for demurrage while in dock.—*Japan Chronicle.*

VOLUNTEER TROOP CAMP.

THE ANNUAL OUTING.

The report, by Lieut. C. H. Ross, Commanding the Hongkong Volunteer Troop, dated 7th January last, on the camp in the New Territories, which was held from the 21st to 26th December last, is published in the current issue of the *Gazette*. Lieut. Ross writes—

SITE.

The Camp was pitched on the same site as that selected in 1906, viz. on the southern slope of the hills at the north end of the Fanling valley, close to the village of Ho Sheng, Heung and about one mile distant from Cheung Shui. The site is an excellent one for a small camp, the ground being level and of a dry sandy composition; with a good stream of water alongside flowing direct from the hill top.

WEATHER.

The weather was good, some rain fell on the 24th and 25th December, but did not interfere with our work.

TENTS.

Ten small tents and two E. P. tents were drawn from the Ordnance Store Department. The E. P. tents were joined together and used as a mess tent. An ample supply of tent-poles was provided this year, and though we had some strong wind none of the tents were blown down.

STABLING.

A temporary stabling stable was erected for our ponies, it was an improvement on that put up last year.

TRANSPORT OF PONIES ACROSS HARBOUR.

The Army Service Corps being unable to provide a lighter on the 21st December, we transported our ponies to Kowloon, by junk. On the return journey an Army Service Corps lighter was provided, and again we drew attention to the form of gangway which is provided for the purpose of connecting the lighter with the shore. Last year we were given simple planking about 2½ feet wide, which worked well except that by reason of its narrow width, the ponies were apt to slip a leg over its side; this year high canvas sides have been added to the planks, and though possibly the arrangement may be excellent for small animals, it certainly does not commend itself to the China pony. We had great difficulty in getting our ponies to face it, dried though they were after a 26-mile ride. One pony despite our efforts refused to enter, and as the tide was falling had to be left behind and brought across later in a junk.

ATTENDANCE IN CAMP.

Owing to absence from the Colony, sickness and other causes, the attendance of members was less than last year. Our present available strength in the Colony is 24. Of this number, 4 are married men who apparently cannot leave their families at Christmas time, were sick, and 4 were unable to obtain leave of absence from their work. All remaining members attended Camp.

WORK PERFORMED.

The march out to Camp (16 miles) was performed with two halts of about one hour each in 7 hours; the return journey with only one halt lasting just 6 hours.

I attach a map (which please return) showing the road ridden or walked over by members during our Camp.

I would draw attention to one expedition, which I think was a creditable work performed by sections each under an N.C.O. working from opposite directions, i.e. from the Camp to Sha-Tai-Kok and over the mountain along the frontier to the Samchun River, and back to Camp via Tai-Lin (Kong Tai-Han) Block House. The path over the mountain by the frontier is very steep, some 1,500 feet in height, the road being paved and in many places "stepped". The ride, about 24 miles, took 5½ hours in the case of the section working from the north, and 4½ hours for the section approaching the pass from the southward.

I think the members who have attended both the 1906 and 1907 camps, have now a very good knowledge of the frontier portion of the Territories. The ponies stood the work well, and beyond a few falls of bridges and paddy bunds, we had no accidents; I have to report one case of sore back, and two ponies girthed, these were treated with the simple remedy of salt and water and were able to carry their owners back to Hongkong without further harm.

A further was in attendance, but his services were not required. Last year many of our ponies required shoeing or attendance of some kind; this year we covered more ground and theoretically more shoeing work should have been required. I can only ascribe this satisfactory state of affairs to the better weather we enjoyed this year, and consequent drier state of the ground with less action on the ponies' shoes.

SADDLERY.

I much regret to report that the leather of most of the bridles and headstalls at present in use, has perished.

Practically every bridle had to be repaired while in Camp, and though some of the breaks were no doubt due to careless handling on the part of the members, I think there is no doubt that the condition of these articles is not good. I would recommend that no new sets be ordered from India without delay.

I would also ask that a supply of stout straps for fastening blankets and overcoats to saddles be ordered at the same time; these last named articles we have hitherto procured ourselves locally, but they are not a success.

FIELD FIRING.

On Christmas morning the Troop was divided into two sections and field firing was carried on at small figure targets. The shooting was very fair.

ENTRY WORK.

Sanities were placed over the Camp from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Every man present in Camp thus performed from four to six hours' entry work, during the five days we were out.

In conclusion, I would mention that the Camp was pitched in a most satisfactory manner; two temporary bridges, built and some roads made by Inspector Hudson, who acts as our instructor, and whose services were kindly lent to us by the Sanitary Authorities of Hongkong. The Commission was attended to by Wing Kee, who carried out his duties to the satisfaction of all who were present.

INTERESTING GLIMPSES OF TRADE PROSPECTS.

CONDITIONS AT NORTHERN TREATY PORTS.

The first volume of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs on the trade of China during 1907 has just been received and proves as usual an exceedingly interesting document. The reports are only concerned with the northern ports, Antung to Kiangchow, but several of these are of importance from the point of view of the Shipping trade of Hongkong. Antung, for example, was opened to trade by Article XXII of the Commercial Treaty between the United States and China signed at Shanghai on the 8th October, 1903. The Customs House was established on the 14th March, 1907. Although this helped to put the Chinese merchant on a more equitable footing vis-à-vis his Japanese competitor, who had been enjoying immense profits during the previous season, the year's trade first showed for him an uphill fight against early drought, low water, disturbance in the timber industry, and their attendant ills; but, later, saying rains brought those full granaries which, combined with a bumper crop of coconuts, meant big profits for the counting-room. Still, the wood merchants had a most unsatisfactory year.

During four months of the year the river is tightly sealed. What has come under the cognizance of this office during the remaining eight months of 1907 may be so readily gleaned from the accompanying tables that attention will be devoted to setting forth an initial exposition of some of the most prominent commercial features of the port's life. The busiest weeks follow the river's opening—usually between the 20th and 30th of March—when new stocks of imports arrive and the accumulated beans and beancakes, together with the belated autumn wild silk cocoons, hurry out. Again, in the autumn, before the ice sets in late in November, the anchorage is often held six, and sometimes seven or eight small steamers, attracted by the excellent freights to be secured from the cocoon crop. During the high water of July and August little but timber moves. Of imports, this place may never be covered upon, writes the acting Commissioner, to absorb radically fluctuating amounts from year to year, as its hinterland is rigidly delimited by natural barriers and has no great centres where unusual prosperity or depression can violently disturb the market. With imports Antung serves the one independent sub-perfecture and six magisterial districts roughly covering the west end of the Yalu valley, as well as supplying part of the demands of the northern districts of Korea. Here the former territory is being somewhat trampled upon by New Wije, although it must be many years before the well-beaten path from Old Wije to Antung can be completely deflected down the Korean shore. In the other direction, Takushan may be expected to absorb some of the business of the western boundary. However, there seems to be an undeniable vitality of healthy commercial development which has its stability in a growing agricultural district and draws its strength from the leading lines of land and water transportation. Among the Native Customs figures for imports—practically all from Chefoo—may be mentioned: 14,145 cases of kerosene oil, 23,255 pieces of native cotton cloth, and 30,778 pieces of foreign sheetings and drills.

Exports Antung may have a much more varied future, also, to her present staples of beans, silk, and timber may be added a considerable quantity of mineral products; if the mountains give forth the gold, silver, iron, copper, and coal which prospectors have asserted to be abundant, and if the hinterland of influence may be greatly widened by the installation of such additional railway lines as are mooted to Kirin and the Sungari, or to Liangyang, or some point to the south of it on the Dairen-Mukden line.

Of Dairen the Commissioner makes some very pertinent observations. He says it will fall short of expectations. During the late war millions of money were spent by the two belligerents in Manchuria, and many jumped to the conclusion that she was the richer by so much; but this is far from the truth. The millions of dollars and rubles that the belligerents poured into Manchuria were like the millions of dollars they expended, in great part lost at once and for ever to the economic world of Manchuria. The money was mostly paid to provision dealers, carters, and coolies, very few of whom were natives of Manchuria. When they had earned enough, after exchanging the money into silver or silver coins, they carried it away to their homes in Shantung and Chihli. Japan alone spent during the war 190 million yen in Manchuria, and had 60 million yen of war notes in circulation. How much was spent by Russia cannot be known, but it was probably even more than that of Japan. But these huge sums did not remain in Manchuria. The presence of a large population, however large, can never advance the economic or social growth of a country, although the unsettled conditions may account for and necessitate its presence. Manchuria must be considered a convalescent, and careful nursing will be wanted before she can again exert her full strength. Any attempt to force the market before that time has come will only end in disaster. Other causes that helped to damage the local market were: (1) The unusually heavy storm which, early in August, swept away several bridges between Dairen and Tashinkian and interrupted railway communication for some weeks. (2) The prohibition to import Manchurian grain into the leased Territory, which, although withdrawn early in November, was a great blow to the export trade of the port. (3) The lack of banking facilities. As there is no bank doing business on the credit system usual in other Chinese ports, and the leased Territory is a gold standard country, Chinese merchants on arriving here, whether from the North or the South, are at a loss to enter into business relations on any large scale. (4) The equally low rate of exchange which prevailed towards the close of the year.

Of Kiangchow, it is recorded that the import trade received a set-back through the depreciation in value of the new to cash place, coined by the Chinese Mint since 1905; and now the principal medium of trade in the province. Owing to the want of subsidiary coinage the old cash pieces, having become very scarce—prices naturally became enhanced, and in consequence, the new coin soon met with disfavour. Some districts, notably Wukien, refused it altogether, while the others accepted it *à la discrétion*, but kept on reckoning, as in Wukien, according to the old cash. At first, the supply being insufficient, they were issued at a premium; in consequence, a large influx of similar coinage came from the South, where there was a superabundance of the kind, and the result was a depreciation of the new coin. The authorities to stop it by prohibition and severe penalties, but to no avail. The situation and to discredit the new coin, which had meanwhile become intermixed with the southern coin; to the extent of about 90 per cent.—in the eyes of the people. When first issued, the dollar exchanged for from 80 to 90 cash pieces. During 1906 and 1907, July 1907, the exchange fluctuated between 100 and 105, keeping with supply and demand and to some extent also in sympathy with the fluctuations of dollar. From July 1907, when the

inland at 100 in Tientsin, a gradual downward movement commenced. In September exchange stood at 115; and, during October a sudden change, caused by a mistake attempt to steady exchange officially, brought it down to 100. During November and December the value fluctuated between 125 and 131, and on the 1st December it stood at 125. During all this time the exchange, notably, at Tientsin, stood from 3 to 6 per cent. lower than at Tientsin, which further enhanced the prices of imports. The principal objection to the new to cash piece is the absence of subsidiary coins. The people, having from time immemorial been accustomed to reckon with single cash, the want of fractional coins is severely felt. If 1, 2, and 5 cash pieces had been coined at the same time, most would not have risen; fluctuations would have kept in moderate bounds, and there would have been no cause of dissatisfaction. At present there is little hope of improvement unless and until small coins are provided. An Imperial Edict directing the immediate coining of single cash in all the provinces, and an excellent memorial from His Excellency the Governor of Shantung on coining generally, have just appeared; so that there is some hope of early improvement in this direction. The reports by the Commissioner at the South China ports will be awaited with interest.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

Concluding his annual report, dated the 25th April last, the Commandant, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, remarks—

The Corps took part in the King's birthday parade with the remainder of the Garrison on November 9th, 1907.

The Corps paraded with the remainder of the Garrison, and lined the streets on 20th April, 1907, on the occasion of the departure of Sir Matthew Nathan from the Colony, and again on 23rd July, 1907, on arrival in the Colony of Sir Frederick Lugard. On each occasion the Troop furnished an escort.

The Cadet Company has increased in numbers since the beginning of the present year; there are now 22 members.

A bugle band is being started, and a miniature rifle range close to the Victoria School will shortly be opened.

The new headquarters have been equipped with a complete gymnastic apparatus purchased out of private funds; classes were held during the winter months and were well attended.

The winter clothing alluded to in my last report has now been provided.

Alterations in the establishment of the Corps, providing for the formation of an Infantry Company, have been approved and will come into force early in 1908.

The purchase of a submachine gun has been postponed pending the recommendation of the Colonial Defence Committee regarding a similar but cheaper apparatus.

INSPECTION.

The annual inspection of the Corps was carried out on 21st March, 1908, by His Excellency Major-General R. G. Broadwood, K.C., Commanding the Troop, South China, who expressed his satisfaction with the excellent appearance of the Corps and the smart way in which the various drill movements were carried out.

SERVICES.

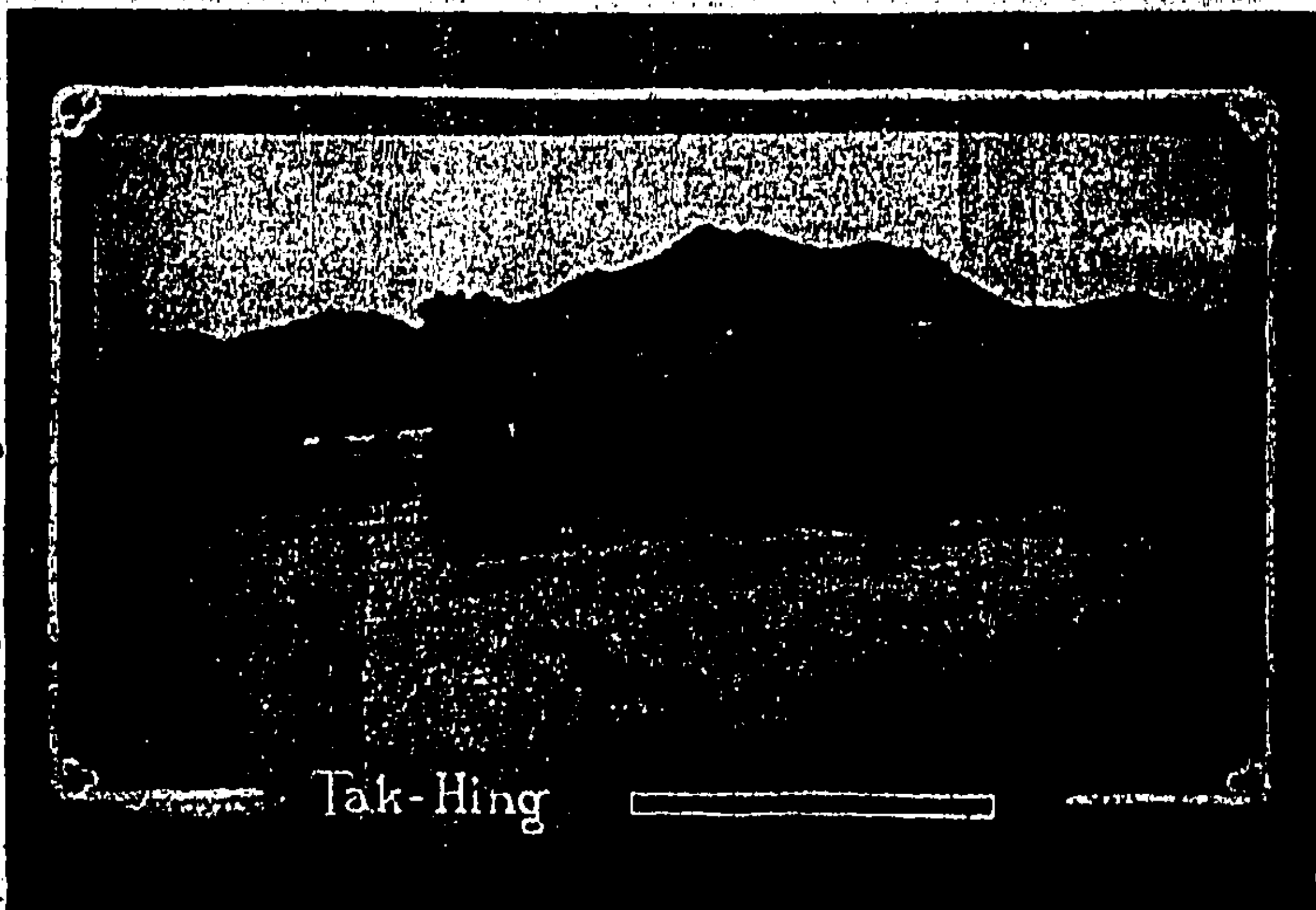
I am indebted to Major Pritchard for the efficient state in which he left the Corps on his resignation on 21st April, 1907, and am glad to be able to report that this standard of efficiency has been maintained, thanks to the willing co-operation of all members of the Corps and to the help I have received from my Staff Officer, Corps Sergeant Major W. Higby, and Staff Armourer, Mr. W. A. Webb, who have continued to perform their duties to my entire satisfaction.

WARSHIPS AND PRIVATE SHIPBUILDING YARDS.

ADVICE BY JAPANESE JOURNAL.

We have more than once urged the Government, writes the *Jiji Shimpō*, to place orders with private Japanese firms for the building of warships. Since the late war some of the shipbuilders have greatly enlarged their works and are now in a position to undertake the construction of vessels of considerable tonnage; and there is talk of transferring some of the Government undertakings into private hands as a means of relieving the existing economic distress, a renewed discussion of this proposition seems opportune. The development of the shipbuilding industry owes much to the encouragement given by the Government, and the extension of the shipping trade during the last few years has also resulted in the rapid growth of shipbuilding in Japan. The total tonnage of ships built during last year, for instance, reached the unprecedented figure of 775,000, of which something like 75 per cent. was from the Mitsui Bishi and the Kawasaki Yards, where quite a number of ships are either now building or to be built. It is evident, however, that the dulness of the carrying trade since last autumn, coupled with the prevailing inactivity of economic circles, has adversely affected the shipbuilding industry, also, and new orders have now been almost entirely stopped. The shipbuilders are therefore much exercised as to the future, when the orders now in hand have been finished. In an industry of this kind, for the conduct of which a large amount of capital as well as the highest skill and matured experience are necessary, and which, in the event of a national emergency will be called upon to render great services to the country, it would be to the interests of the nation and the conductors of the industry that the Government should help them in case of necessity by giving to them a proportion of the national order.

The construction of men-of-war by private companies is a method adopted in England, Germany, and other countries, continues the *Jiji Shimpō*; in England, for instance, two battleships and a few cruisers are now being launched at naval arsenals and a number of smaller vessels are ordered from private firms. A similar state of affairs is observable in respect to Germany, France, and the United States. The general policy followed by the Governments of these countries in the matter of the construction of warships will be clear from what is done by them. The circumstances, however, are somewhat different in the case of Japan. The construction of some torpedo-boats at the Kawasaki Dockyards during the late war was perhaps the first instance of the Japanese Government giving an order to a private house for warships. Then orders were issued to several builders for the construction of dispatch-boats and a dozen or so destroyers. The Naval Estimates for the current fiscal year provide for an order of 674,000,000 yen spread over the succeeding eight years for the building of 20 warships of various classes and for the repairs of the existing vessels; it is not probable, however, that any of these orders will be given to private companies, but it is not unlikely that at the same time the Government will give an order to a private house for the building of warships.—*Japan Chronicle.*



Tak-Hing

In connection with the damage which may have been done to the track of the Canton-Hankow railway, we read in the report of the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Samshui for 1907 that: "The flood in the spring did considerable damage to the Canton-Hankow railway line. This has been repaired since and the line improved. On account of the poor quality of ties it has been necessary to replace 35,000 sleepers and to widen the embankments and raise the track." If that is what had to be done in the case of a paltry inundation what is likely to be the expense which will necessarily have to be incurred after a flood of the description given above?

In an account of a trip from Hongkong to Wuchow a writer, whose article was copied by the Commissioner of Customs at Wuchow, and published in his Decennial Report in 1901, it was stated

arrow streets where the water is running like a millrace and forming whirlpools at every street corner. All the large restaurants and shops in the Fu-River broke loose last night, collided with each other and nothing is known of their fate as they disappeared round a bend of the river in a few minutes.

The *ss. Lin Tan* and *Chen On* are in port but unable to get their cargo discharged as no cargo boats are procurable; all have gone far away amongst the river fields for shelter. The water at present is 20 feet above low-water mark. It is still rising.

The river has now ceased to rise, but as there are frequent heavy squalls it maintains the same level. Food has risen 50% in price and is difficult to procure even at that rate. The well-to-do have laid in a goodly stock, as it is expected the river will be at this abnormal height for a fortnight or more. Casualties are variously estimated at from 30 to 200 of the Wuchow community. But if death from exposure amongst the aged and infirm, on top of the houses in the torrential rain, is to be reck-

oned, a number of houses close to the river bank in that district have collapsed. There are now hundreds of "unfortunates" in the direst distress urgently awaiting relief.

The committee of the Cheap Rice Distribution Bureau, on receiving the information, at once convened a meeting yesterday afternoon, and the members of the different charitable institutions were invited to attend for the purpose of devising means to assist the sufferers by the calamity. The Shan Hou Chi was at once communicated with, and at the request of the people two Government launches were placed at their disposal by the Shan Hou Chi officials. At 7 o'clock this morning the two launches left here to proceed, one to the West River and the other to the East River with a quantity of rice and gunny bags on board to the relief of the unfortunates.

FATSHAN-SAMSHUI RAILWAY.

The Fat-shan-Samshui railway has also been flooded, and the running of the train has been suspended. Up to this morning the train on this line has not resumed running.

PROPERTY SALE.

CHINESE DWELLING HOUSES CHANGE HANDS.

Mr. G. P. Lamert, auctioneer, put up for sale, by public auction, in the forenoon, last Saturday, a lot of eleven three-story Chinese dwelling-houses, with shops on the ground floor. The houses are known as Nos. 2 to 10 (even numbers) and No. 13A, New Street; they are situated within the city limits and built on L.L. 1134 and 1135 which contain 860 and 871 square feet, respectively. The Crown rents attached to them are \$16 and \$170 per annum. The property was put up for sale by order of the mortgagee. There was a fair attendance of those interested in the property market at the auction. The two lots were sold together and jointly elicited a first bid of \$30,000. Then there arose a shuttlecock and battle-dore game between two rival bidders, who, by successive offers of \$1,000 each, pushed the price up to \$30,000. At this stage there was a short rally and the next bid, bought forth by the persuasive auctioneer, was one of \$31,000, which was a challenge to the would-be purchaser's opponent to go one better when \$32,000 was announced by Mr. Lamert. The competition was sustained for quite a little while, and Mr. Lamert succeeded in obtaining \$35,000, at which price the contestants hesitated before the bidding was resumed. Eventually \$47,000 was called out by Mr. Li Sing Ku and his opponent retiring, the fall of the hammer announced that gentlemen as the purchaser.

At that price the property realised \$40 per square foot including buildings erected thereon.

CAUSEWAY BAY SHELTER.

DEFERRING THE BLUOK.

It would seem from a notification appearing in the *Gazette* that the much needed improvement of Causeway Bay is about to be carried out. The Director of Public Works is inviting tenders for excavating, removing and depositing at sea, the sand, stones, and other substances forming the higher portion of the foreshore at Causeway Bay.

SHIP CAPTAIN SUED.

WHO IS LIABLE?

The master of the steamship *Progress*—Captain Thomas Schjervig—was sued in the Supreme Court, last Monday, by Wan' Wong, an engineer, of 127 and 129, Second Street, West Point, who sought to recover the sum of \$26, money due for work done and material supplied.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff Mr. A. G. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master was for the defence.

Plaintiff called, stated that he was a contractor. In January of this year he had an office on the Praya Central. Some time that month a man called at his office and asked him to go aboard the *Progress*, to see the captain. Plaintiff went aboard about the 17th.

Mr. Kong Sing—When you went aboard what did you do?

Plaintiff—I saw the mate, and asked for the captain, who said he had some work for me to do.

The work was done, plaintiff pursued, and the captain told him to go to the Chong-Hing firm, the ship's chaffers, for payment. Plaintiff went to that firm with the bill which was signed by the captain, but he was referred back to the captain, who refused to pay. Plaintiff carried out the repairs under the supervision of the ship's officer.

Cross-examined: Plaintiff had done work on the *Progress* before. He was nearly always called by a Chinaman. Sometimes, however, the captain called himself. The work he did was to make an ice-chest, and repair certain parts of the vessel. After the work was done the proper way was to get the bill endorsed by the captain. This was exactly what he did. He did not know that the Chong Hing firm had stopped business. That was not the reason why he brought this claim. He did, in fact, go to the Chong Hing firm, but they could not pay until the captain was consulted.

Mr. Jackson handed to the Court the evidence of the captain which was taken *de bene esse*. Proceeding, he stated that the charterers of the ship were liable, and not the captain. The contractor was ordered aboard by the charterers and not by the captain.

Mr. Kong Sing said it was plain that the captain was liable. The evidence showed that an agreement was entered between captain and contractor. There was no evidence to show otherwise. The captain was looked at as the principal. He was the person who was given power by the Agents of vessels, not by the charterers.

All Lordship reserved judgment.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

COAL SUPPLY.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of the best Japanese Akaike lump coal for six months commencing July 1st, 1908, the approximate quantity being about six hundred tons per month, for the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

H.E. TANG SHAO-YI.

THE FENGtien GOVERNORSHIP.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. D. News* writes on 5th inst.—Governor Tang Shao-yi left Peking for Tientsin on the 24th ultimo after staying a couple of days at that Treaty Port and on his urgent request of Viceroy Hui Shih-chang of Manchuria he returned to Mukden quietly by the ordinary train on the 24th instant in company with his private secretary to resume his duties as the Governor of Fengtien. It is stated that, owing to the Fokien, Chientao, and other unsettled questions between Japan and China, Governor Tang will come here again after the arrival of Mr. Ito, the new Japanese Minister to China, who passed through Harbin from London on the 24th ultimo en route to Japan.

The Grand Councilors of State yesterday held a meeting in the Langjunyan Park about the suggested abolition of the Governorship of Fengtien as recently proposed by Governor Tang himself, but in view of the frequent intercourse between Japan and China and Russia and China in Manchuria coupled with the reorganization of the administrative systems of the Three Eastern Provinces and also the liability of Viceroy Hui Shih-chang to perform his important duties at Mukden without the able assistance of Governor Tang, the proposal has been shelved until Manchuria is in a better condition. It is stated that H.E. Tang Shih-kai is in favour of the shifting of the seat of Government of Viceroy Hui from Mukden to Kwang-chow-shui where Russian and Japanese spheres of influence in Manchuria meet. But the Viceroy would remain in the Manchurian Capital if the appointment of the Fengtien Governor were to be abolished.

West River Floods.

RELIEF EXPEDITIONS.

ASSISTANCE FROM CANTON.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 22nd June.

Harrowing reports begin to arrive of the sad catastrophes which have overtaken the river districts within the delta of which Canton is the principal city. The stories are necessarily disconnected and incoherent at the moment, but as received at the headquarters of the charitable institutions of Canton they all point to the urgency of the needs of the people who are exposed to direful distress after being rendered homeless and without the wherewithal to provide themselves with so much as a single day's meal. In answer to the appeals by the envoys from the stricken districts, the charitable organisations of this city are rising to the importance of the occasion and the sacred charge of their humanitarian and self-imposed duties.

On Saturday last, the 20th instant, a number of volunteers attached to the Cheap Rice Distribution Bureau boarded the Government launch *Shin Yu* towing a cargo-boat with a quantity of rice and gunny bags to proceed up the North River. But when they got as far as Shek Moon, the water ran down the river in such great force that they found the launch could not proceed any farther with safety. The party was obliged to leave the cargo-boat with the rice in the vicinity of Shek Moon and return to Canton.

Upon the return of the first expedition a second was promptly organized. Another launch of greater capacity than the first, which failed to negotiate the violent currents, was requisitioned and the *Wan Loy* was despatched to Shek Moon without loss of time. All the gunny bags they had were distributed to the villagers on the way who were busily engaged in stopping the water from overflowing the embankments which had given way in many different parts. Another large quantity of rice and gunny bags was purchased by the Bureau and promptly sent to supply the villagers. Hundreds of men were engaged all day filling the bags with earth and sand with which they constructed a sort of breastwork to withstand the onrush of the rising water. It was a pitiful sight to see the gang of villagers working with might and main to resist the flow of the devastating river.

On their way the relief party found that the roofs of the houses near Shek Moon were just a few feet above water on the 20th instant. Many flood sufferers were left without food; they did not have any provision even for a single day. The relief commissioners distributed the rice among the unfortunate.

Most of the districts along the West River are submerged and many have been cut off from the city. Yuen district has been cut off from the river banks were almost entirely inundated. The survivors from the flood sought shelter on the high embankments and there they resigned themselves to an impending fate hoping and awaiting for assistance. At length assistance did arrive; but for many it was too late and they perished in the flood.

Of all the districts along the West River Samshui suffered the most, as the water rose with such rapidity that the people had scarcely time to escape, and over a hundred lives were lost. Later returns may account for a higher death roll.

A BENEVOLENT VICEROY.

By order of the Viceroy the Kwangchow prefect personally left here yesterday afternoon by a gunboat taking with him one hundred and twenty bags of rice to be distributed among the sufferers.

RAFT ADRIFF.

Yesterday morning a large raft of soft wood poles was lying in the vicinity of Wongshai, owing to the squall of the tide, the ropes snapped and the poles were sent adrift causing danger to navigation by the native crafts for a time in the harbour. The timber was ultimately recovered.

The natives state that, for twenty years past, they have not experienced such a disastrous inundation in the surrounding districts of Canton. They think that, if the embankments of Shek Kok Wal had collapsed much more serious damage would have resulted and even the city itself might have been two or three feet under water.

RELIEF FUNDS.

The Canton Charitable Institutions are about to make arrangements to start a subscription list for relief funds to assist the unfortunate inhabitants of the districts which have suffered by the terrible visitation.

CANTON RELIEF ORGANISATIONS.

CHILDREN KIDNAPPED BY ROBBER HANDS.

23rd June.

The reports which continue to arrive from the inundated districts down the Fu and West Rivers fully corroborate the earliest accounts of the gravity of the distress brought about by the record flood in these parts. Emergency aid is being sent on behalf of the sufferers for urgent succour continues to arrive at home hourly and as each presents his tale of woe to the board of management of the various charitable institutions, the pressing character of the aid which must be forthwith rendered is brought home to the guardians of the poor. To their credit it must be recorded that all are putting their shoulders to the same wheel with a determination to press forward the measures of relief which admit of no dilatoriness in their execution, if the hundreds—nay, the thousands of life which are crying out in the devastated hills and plains of the riverine districts to the benevolence of Canton and even of Hongkong, are to be saved. I mention Hongkong because an urgent appeal has gone forth to the Chinese merchant princes of your Colony for co-operation in funds and kind in the work of relief which the Government and people have joined hands in this city to carry out without a moment's delay.

CANTON UNDER WATER.

Although the rain has ceased to fall in torrents for the past three days, and the weather seems favourable enough, the flood shows no sign of abatement. It is true that the rise in the water does not continue, neither is its subsidence appreciable. The streets in the western suburb of Canton have been flooded; some are two to three feet while others from four to five feet under water. A veritable lake has been formed in the district and sampans float and glide along in the streets with as much freedom and safety as on the river. The houses being flooded, residents have to erect high stands on which they place the perishable goods and articles to prevent destruction.

GOVERNMENT RELIEF.

Members of the gentry from several of the inundated districts have arrived here with reports of the calamity and the prevailing distress to the provincial authorities. Tatal Chang, the Nambui magistrate, has proceeded on board a gunboat with rice and a supply of gunny bags to cruise along the flooded districts to distribute food to the people in want and to furnish the bags to those employed in embankment construction to stem the flood.

The Government launch *Shin Foo* has also been out for two days with rice and gunny bags for distribution among the unfortunate. The *Shin Foo* returned to Canton as soon as her stock on board was exhausted.

CAVING FOR HELP.

In the course of her mission of mercy, on the 21st instant, the *Shin Foo* which was proceeding up the West River came across numberless sampans whose occupants were crying aloud for help. On the embankments crowds of them could be seen from the deck of the launch vigorously sounding gongs appealing to their neighbours for help to repair the dykes. The villagers were pursuing their life and death task with grim determination. From all directions heart-rending cries for help could be heard by those on board the *Shin Foo*, in which the voices of men mingled with those of women, and the aged with those of children. The *Shin Foo* will again be loaded with the necessary supplies and despatched on her second merciful errand as soon as the stores can be got on board.

KIDNAPPERS RENDER PARENTS' DISTRAUGHT.

On the 21st instant the embankments in the Samshui district collapsed. The villagers ran to the hills known as Pang Kong Shan with their families for refuge, while the boat-bodied men were busily engaged in mending the dykes, which were in a dilapidated condition. As the measure of the misery who were pursuing their life and death task to ply their nefarious trade in the midst of the surrounding distress. The brigands rushed up to these hills and kidnapped a number of children from their helpless mothers who were distraught with untold misery. Upon realising the loss of their children, the women gave vent to a more weeping and their cries rent the air for a considerable distance. The guard boats in the vicinity were communicated with the fact, but the robbers who had decamped, were too quick for the soldiers.

RELIEF MEASURES.

Yesterday afternoon the different charitable institutions in Canton held a meeting for the purpose of taking steps at once to relieve the flood sufferers. Touched by the predicament of their fellow-countrymen and the impending distress threatening them, the members of the benevolent societies all promised to raise funds to buy forthwith all necessary provisions to be taken to the districts to be distributed to the unfortunate, who are now eagerly looking for help. Each of the institutions will, in the first instance, vote a certain sum of money for the purpose.

APPEAL TO THE VICEROY.

An appeal will be made to the Viceroy to grant a sum of money towards the funds. The Viceroy will, at the same time, be requested to memorize the Throne on the calamity and the state of affairs prevailing and to apply for immediate pecuniary assistance. At the meeting it was decided to at once engage a steam launch which will be loaded with rice, and pickled vegetables and other necessary food stuffs to hurry to the West River. A separate Bureau will be opened to conduct business in connection with the relief of the poor people by the calamity. The Bureau will be the central organising office of the relief measures.

HONGKONG'S ASSISTANCE WANTED.

An urgent telegram was yesterday despatched to the Hongkong Tung Wa Hospital asking for joint assistance and appealing to the hospital to invite subscriptions from the Chinese abroad. Realising the influence which the Chinese merchants in Hongkong are capable of exerting, the Canton relief committee look forward to tangible help from their compatriots in Hongkong. There is no denying that the case is a deserving one; never more so, perhaps, in all the past annals of the province.

A SYMPATHETIC VICEROY.

The Kwang Chow Prefect, who left here on the 21st instant, with rice and gunny bags for the flooded districts, has not yet returned to Canton.

It is reported that H.E. the Viceroy, who is deeply moved by the distressful happenings of last week, proposes to proceed personally to make an inspection of the inundated area. The Admiral, Li Chou, soon after his return from Hongkong, heard of the inundation in the riverine districts, and lost no time in proceeding to ascertain the state of affairs. He has now returned to Canton and has submitted a report on the disastrous inundation to the Viceroy.

THE CALAMITY IN SHIU-HING.

TAKING STOCK OF RICE.

24th June.

Not by a long way have we reached the last chapter in the tale of woe which is being unfolded of the terrible floods and the concomitant distress which prevails in the districts swept by the violent waters of the Fu and West Rivers. News filters through slowly owing to the collapse of the land-lines of the Chinese Telegraph Administration. What intelligence we do obtain of the conditions in the inundated districts are either brought by some of the survivors themselves or by members of the gentry who have to perform a dual mission by relating to the authorities here the havoc and desolation wrought within their territory and to appeal on behalf of the survivors for the bare staple of life to keep them from dying of starvation. There does not appear to be a single silver line in the lowering clouds overshadowing the horizon of the two sister provinces. Serious as the calamity is now too painfully realised to be the outlook for the immediate future, when the peasantry—the bulwark of the country—are bereft of their means of living, is still more gloomy. There is a certain prospect of famine stalking the provinces, and in its train a recrudescence of piracy and lawlessness which the unrestrained bandits of Kwangsi are only too ready to fall back upon in times of stress and trouble. With their history will repeat itself.

It is now just about a week since the freshet began its unchecked career of wholesale destruction, yet there is no sign that the water in the surrounding districts or even in Canton itself is going down to any visible extent. Those in charge of the various charitable organisations of this city are pursuing their benevolent duties with unabating energy and vigour. Never before has it been known that the unanimity and spontaneity of action have been as general as they are on the present occasion when petty differences are sunk in the common cause of alleviating the sufferings and pains of hundreds of thousands of the thousands of fellow-creatures. The relief expeditions are indefatigable in their efforts and promptitude. As fast as it can be done, rice and food stuffs are rushed into the districts most urgently in need.

SHIU-HING DISTRICT.

Until yesterday the worst reports of the flood have reached this city from Samshui. It now appears, however, that an appalling disaster overtook a township in the district of Shiu-hing famous for its sugar. It is reported that, on the 21st instant, the embankment in Bala Chow Wal in that district gave way. The villages in the vicinity were all engulfed. It is estimated that, in all probability, over a thousand

lives must have been lost within a few hours on that fatal day.

THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The Canton Charitable Institutions, again held a meeting yesterday. The discussion was remarkable for the sympathetic expressions of opinions offered, all of which agreed that the time was for action and not words. It was resolved that, in addition to the supply of rice, large quantities of biscuits and whatever food stuffs that are procurable and capable of easy transport should be bought up immediately to meet the present urgent requirements. It was also resolved that the *Shin Hou Kue* should be again approached with a view of providing another gunboat to tow cargo-boats with provisions and necessities to the inundated districts for distribution among those who stand in need of first aid.

A MUNIFICENT DONATION.

Moved by the touching appeals of the gentry, before the business of the meeting concluded, Mr. So Sing Kuei voluntarily subscribed \$10,000 towards the Flood Relief Funds. This gentleman's munificence was greatly applauded. It is currently reported that his benevolence in the present terrible crisis through which the provinces are passing will be brought to the notice of the Viceroy.

APPEAL TO HONGKONG.

Besides the urgent telegrams to Hongkong appealing for monetary assistance, a despatch was yesterday cabled to the Tung Wa Hospital in your Colony to buy up all the available supply of biscuits in the market for shipment to Canton.

TRANSPORTING SUPPLIES.

At 8 o'clock this morning a gunboat was placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee by the *Shin Hou Kue*. She was despatched along with several cargo-boats in tow carrying rice and large supplies of biscuits and other commodities to proceed up the river.

Throughout yesterday the Charitable Institutions bought up all the biscuits in stock from the bakeries in the city. The bakeries have been ordered to turn out the largest supply they are capable of producing in a single day. The entire output will be required to partially feed those in the submerged districts where fuel is unobtainable.

HONGKONG'S RESPONSIVE.

Yesterday afternoon a telegraphic reply was received from the Hongkong Tung Wa Hospital to the earlier despatches from the Nine Charitable Institutions and the Seventy-two Guilds. It advised a remittance of \$10,000 to Canton on the following day. The Canton gentry has also started a subscription list in aid of the Flood Relief Funds.

ROBBERS AT WORK.

While the stricken sufferers are prostrated with grief in their terrible affliction they are at the mercy of depredators. Yesterday several cases of robbery were reported to Canton from the inundated districts. The Viceroy has renewed his stringent orders to the district police to protect the people from further and preventable loss.

SECURING STOCK OF RICE.

The two district magistrates of Nambui and Pany have been instructed to make inquiries into the quantities of rice that are now in stock in the towns of Fatsan and Chiu Tung, etc. The object of the inquiry is to prevent merchants from storing up the staple commodity with a view of "cornering" the market in a time of stress. The foresight of the authorities is generally commended.

SAMFANS CAPSIZED.

Yesterday a few sampans were capsized by the strong current in the harbour. Fortunately no loss of lives attended the mishap. It is surprising that the chapter of accidents on the river is not longer than it actually is.

THE RAILWAY.

The train of the Fatsan-Samshui line can now run only as far as the Three-Eye Bridge. Beyond that stage traffic is wholly disorganised up to the present.

INUNDATION SUBSIDING.

THE RELIEF ORGANISATIONS.

25th June.

At last signs are visible that the recent flood had attained its worst and that we may hopefully look to an early diminution of water in and around the city. In Canton the height of the water has gone down about seven inches within the past twenty-four hours. Reports received from the surrounding districts also advise that the inundation is subsiding gradually. Many streets are now dry, and the water in the Western suburb, which was at one time so high, is now subsiding. The natives state that if the weather continues as favourable as at present, the flood in this city may be expected to be counted as a thing of the past within the next three or four days.

SUCCOURING THE INHABITANTS.

The inhabitants of some streets in the lower lands of the Western suburb, especially those of the poorest classes, have been unable to go out to buy food during the last few days, and it is known that their small stocks of rice and provisions have been exhausted. They are accordingly reduced to the last straits. The Canton police authorities have, therefore, bought a large quantity of biscuits which will be taken by sampans to that quarter and distributed to the necessitous people and so keep the wolf from the door until larger relief can be extended to them after more urgent cases have been supplied with their wants.

RELIEF EXPEDITIONS.

Throughout the week one party after another of the members of the Charitable Institutions, who had formed themselves into organized relief sub-committees, have unceasingly proceeded by launch to the inundated districts to deliver provisions and necessities for flood sufferers. In every case is a thorough and exhaustive investigation conducted into the claims by applicants for relief before help is granted. The investigation, though complete, is carried on with as much expedition as is practicable, so that charity is dispensed with considerable judicious discrimination.

PRIVATE BENEVOLENCE.

So general is the feeling of sympathy that has been aroused that the work of relieving distress is not confined alone to the organisations controlled by the central Charitable Institutions. Individuals are manifesting their sympathy which assumes practical form. Several gentlemen, not connected with the benevolent societies, have formed themselves into small parties with funds provided out of their own pockets with which they have bought supplies of food and other necessities. These parties have proceeded in person to the inundated districts with the object of extending help and administering charity to the poor with their own hands.

THE GENTRY'S ACTION.

The Canton gentry has raised a sum of \$10,000 from the Wai Chong Granary funds, and has appointed four members from among themselves to superintend the distribution of provision, and, if necessary, medicines also, to the unfortunate. For while reduced to a condition of impotency, it is to be feared that the women and children, the old and infirm, must have suffered terrible privations through exposure and during the severe ordeal they had to pass through.

The gentry has wired to the Cantonese officials in Peking and to various places to solicit subscriptions in aid of the relief funds. The Viceroy has been approached for liberal subscriptions and to exercise His Excellency's influence to obtain subscriptions from the mandarin circle.

LAUNCH OWNERS' CO-OPERATION.

The Canton Steam-Launch Owners' Association has been requested to provide steam-launches at half price of hire to enable emissaries from the surrounding districts to travel over to Canton in order that a more accurate estimate of the extent of the disaster and the amount of relief required may be approximately formed.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The present case is peculiarly one for the extension of the activities of the Red Cross Society which has deputed members, with the necessary stock of provisions and stores besides medical comforts, to the North River to attend to those who may be in need thereof.

WHAT THE SELF-GOVERNMENT SOCIETY IS DOING.

In the present crisis it was not to be supposed that the members of the Canton Self-Government Society would remain idle with folded arms while all other associations are displaying such praiseworthy and remarkable activity. The committee has convened a public meeting for to-day for the purpose of taking immediate steps in collaboration with the excellent organisations of the relief committee. At the meeting the following question will be submitted for discussion: Owing to the serious calamity that has befallen the inhabitants of the surrounding districts of Canton, whether it is not expedient that a joint petition be formulated and submitted to the Throne, through the Canton Viceroy, praying that, as a special favour, the poor people within the inundated districts be exempted from the payment of land taxes for a certain specified period.

THE VICEROY'S REPORT.

The Viceroy has submitted a telegraphic report on the disastrous flood and the actual condition of the country. The Government in Peking. The report was necessarily only a brief one, as the Kwangchow Prefect, who has been out on a visit of inspection to the flooded districts for four days, has not yet returned to Canton. His Excellency was unable, therefore, to give more particulars in his report, at present.

The Nambui Magistrate, Chang, yesterday returned from his expedition to the inundated districts and has reported on his tour to the Viceroy.

CONSIGNMENTS FROM HONGKONG.

A quantity of bread and biscuits to the value of several thousand dollars was sent up here this morning by the Hongkong Tung Wa Hospital to supply the starving people in the inundated districts.

HONGKONG'S SYMPATHY.

26th inst.

Now that an approximate estimate is beginning to be formed of the extent and gravity of the disaster which overtook the two Southern Provinces last week, it was to be expected that, allied as Hongkong is in affinity and commerce with the millions of Kwangtung, if but slightly estranged from the inhabitants of Kwangsi, the Chinese residents in this Colony would have been the first to be appealed to for material help in relief of their compatriots in dire affliction and misfortune. The full and extended report of the flood as it appeared to a close observer through the entire length of the affected districts from Wuchow to Sainam, which we were enabled to give in our Monday's issue, will have prepared the citizens of Hongkong for the appeal which inevitably must reach the Colony, as it did arrive in three urgent telegrams which were received in Hongkong within twenty-four hours of the publication of our first and detailed report. The first of these telegrams was from the Hongkong Tung Wa Hospital of Hongkong, which handed three telegraphic despatches from Canton, in quick succession yesterday. An emergency meeting of the Board was at once summoned to consider the telegrams. At the same time the Registrar General, who is ex officio a member of the directorate, was apprised of the object of the meeting. At seven o'clock in the evening the members of the Committee met at the board hall. Mr. Tam Hok Po, chairman of directors, presided, and there were also present—Messrs. Ho Kom Tong, Chiu Shu-Ki, Lau Cho-Pak, Chiu-Yee-Ting, Hon Chi-She, Chiu Choy, Chan Lai Chuen and several other worthy gentlemen. The object of the meeting the chairman proceeded to read the telegrams which had been received from the Nine Charitable Institutions and the Seventy-two Merchant Guilds. In substance the telegrams were:—

1.—An appeal to the Tung Wa Hospital to co-operate with the Canton Charitable Institutions to raise subscriptions for the purchase of rice in aid of the sufferers.

2.—A request to the Tung Wa Hospital to cable to the Chinese residents in the out-ports and in foreign countries to collect subscriptions for the Flood Relief Funds.

3.—A request to purchase the thousand piculs of ship's biscuits for immediate shipment to Canton for distribution within the inundated districts.

After some discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Ng Hon Chi, seconded by Mr. Hung Chi Leung, viz.:—

That a sum of \$10,000 be temporarily lent from the funds of the Tung Wa Hospital for remittance to Canton which sum is to be refunded from subscriptions raised from the Chinese community in Hongkong towards the Flood Relief Funds.

When the business of the meeting had been concluded the sixteen directors present raised among themselves a sum of about \$5,000. There were three individual subscriptions of \$500 each, others being of \$100, \$500, and \$200 each.

So far as the leading members of the Chinese community are concerned it must be mentioned to their credit that they took immediate action to give effect to the touching appeal from their compatriots in Canton. Within two hours of the termination of the meeting all the available supplies of biscuits in Hongkong amounting to several hundred piculs were shipped on board the *ss. Kwangsi* and *ss. Fatsan* for transport to Canton. By the *ss. Hengghon* at 8 o'clock this morning, a second lot was despatched, and it is expected by the night boat to-day that the order for 270,000 lbs. of biscuit will have been executed in full.

By telegraphic transfers early this forenoon the ten thousand dollars was transmitted over the wires to the central committee of the Relief Fund in Canton. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the general subscription list was opened. It is confidently expected that a large sum of money will be collected for when seen by a member of our staff this morning a representative member of the Chinese community, who is in a position to express an authoritative opinion, said: "A big calamity has befallen not only Kwangtung, but our own province of Kwangsi. Our people are thoroughly sympathetic and realise the urgency of the call from our fellow-countrymen who are reduced to the verge of starvation."

To only one of the appeals from Canton has no response been made yet. That is the cable application to the Chinese abroad. This being an action relating to what may be termed the "foreign relations of the Tung Wa" action is deferred pending the concurrence of the Registrar General. Why this delay when tens of thousands of homeless and famishing people are awaiting succour, it is difficult to explain. The delay should be capable of explanation.

In the course of the afternoon to-day the Tung Wa Hospital received another telegram from the Charitable Institutions at Canton. It is an additional requisition for another supply of biscuits. The Tung Wa directors are endeavouring to get a shipment off by the *ss. Kwangsi* to-night; the whole indent will require three shipments to fill.

Between 2 and 5 p.m. to-day the Chinese subscription list had already exceeded the \$10,000 mark. The Nam Pak Hong merchants alone contributed about \$6,000.

HONGKONG'S ACTIVITY.

25th inst.

Remarkable activity has been displayed by the leading members of the Chinese community in Hongkong in responding to the calls of their compatriots in Kwangtung and Kwangsi. As we announced yesterday in almost no time the first remittance of \$5,000, borrowed as an emergency loan from the funds of the Tung Wa Hospital, was remitted by T.T. to Canton. In the forenoon, was wholly absorbed by five o'clock in the afternoon. Later in the evening further signatures were received which swelled up the amount of subscriptions for the day to over twelve thousand dollars. Early this morning several leading members of the Chinese community volunteered to canvass for contributions in person; prominent among whom were Mr. Chiu Siu-ki, Mr. Ng Hon-chi (Comptroller, National Bank of China, Ltd.), Messrs. Chiu Yu-Tin, Li Shau-Hin, Fan Yan-Tsun, Lau Chiu-pak, Li Yee-ching, Siu Yuen-tai, and all the directors of the Tung Wa Hospital. At 4.30 p.m. all the subscription lists were returned for to-day. The day's collections aggregated \$8,000, thus bringing up the total to \$13,000. A second remittance of \$5,000 will be wired to Canton to-night. By the *ss. Fatsan* a further consignment of 40 piculs biscuits will be made to-night.

HONGKONG'S MUNIFICENCE.

When we closed our report at 5 p.m. yesterday, it was then ascertained that the subscriptions collected in Hongkong in aid of the Flood Relief Funds in Canton had reached a sum of twenty thousand dollars. By six o'clock in the evening, largely as that sum was representing as that day's collections; it was increased by \$5,000 more. The latter amount was made up of unsolicited contributions which were sent, by individual members of the Chinese community and Hong Kong doing business in Hongkong, direct to the directors at the Tung Wa Hospital. An idea may be gained of the widespread sympathy which the floods have aroused amongst the Chinese of all classes in Hongkong, when it is related that the total subscriptions collected were obtained from the merchants and traders in two streets only, viz., Nathan and Wing Lok Streets. There are yet the collective subscriptions to come from the numerous guilds in Hongkong, besides individual donations from the rich Chinese merchants and others whose munificence may be stirred in a liberal response to the numberless starving ones within the districts suffering by the terrible visitation.

SHIPPING COS. CO-OPERATION.

The willingness to assist the Canton benefactors is not confined to the merchant classes alone; for the shipping companies which have transported the large supplies of food stuffs from Hongkong to Canton have waived the freights on the consignments. Notably among the firms to so generously co-operate with the Canton Committee are the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamship Co., Ltd., the Wai On S. S. Co., Ltd., and the Shui On S. S. Co., Ltd., the latter companies being under the control of Mr. Chiu Siu Ki.

The firm of general store-keepers, MESSRS. SINCERE & CO.

are acting on their own initiative after the example set by the independent relief parties in Canton. They are chartering a launch and equipping it with supplies to the value of \$5,000 which will be shipped to the sufferers by means of the firm's own staff. Laudable as the effort is on the part of Messrs. Sincere, it would appear that any decentralisation of action would tend to increase the cost of the relief measures.

TELEGRAMS ABROAD.

Reference has been made to the telegraphic appeal from Canton asking the weight and influence of the Chinese merchants in Hongkong to despatch applicatory cables to the Chinese doing business in the more important commercial centres of the world for subscriptions to the Relief Funds. This action could not be taken by the Tung Wa directors off their own bat, as concurrence had to be obtained from the Registrar General; that official is a member of the directorate by virtue of his office. The matter having been brought to the notice of the Government, and His Excellency's agreement, the official imprimatur was given to the proposed action. In the course of the forenoon to-day the cables of appeal went forward, and it is to be hoped that the funds will be materially augmented as the result of the action of the application originating in Canton.

SUBSCRIPTION FROM QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The boys and Chinese staff of Queen's College have subscribed \$2,000 and sent it to the Tung Wa Hospital as their mite to relieve the distress in South China.

CLAN FIGHT AT WEST POINT.

Two men are now lying in the Government Civil Hospital—one suffering from bruises, and the other more or less seriously injured—the result of a clan fight which took place at West Point last evening. Some thirty half-breed up the Peak after dark are being constructed. For this work Cantonese and Hakkas are engaged. At about six p.m. yesterday a quarrel started between a Cantonese and a Hakka over the question of water. A fight followed immediately, which soon became general, and by the time the police arrived no less than forty men were interested, using poles and pick-axes for all they were worth. The fight was stopped and two men were despatched to hospital. One had his head opened and the other one of his fingers split. Seven arrests were made. The accused were charged in the Police Court, this morning, and the case was remanded.

A JAPA, priest, by name Ama, had a very annoying experience yesterday. He arrived in Hongkong from Macao yesterday, by the steamer *Suikwa*. His pockets were bulging, and this caused some suspicion in the mind of a police officer, who called Ama to turn them out. The holy man pulled out a revolver and thirty rounds of ammunition, for which he had no permit to carry. He was killed before Mr. J. H. Kemp, in the Police Court, this morning, and pleading guilty, was bound over to the sum of \$10 to come up for judgment when called.

THE WEST POINT MURDER.

TRIAL OPENED.

Last Monday afternoon, the three men who are being detained in police custody for the murder of a companion, Lau Chan, by throwing him over the window of a house in Des Voeux Road West recently built along before Mr. J. R. Wood, in the Police Court. There was a large crowd assembled in the court room when the hearing began.

Inspector Robertson of No. 7 Police Station prosecuted. Mr. D. V. Blayney, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, assisted the prosecution. Mr. Otto Kung Sing was retained for the defence of the third defendant, who was discharged shortly after the trial opened on the ground that there was no evidence to connect him with the murder.

The first witness called by the police was Dr. J. Bell, superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital. He stated that on the evening of the 15th instant, a Chinaman was admitted to the hospital. He was unconscious and died immediately afterwards from numerous injuries, which the witness detailed. A fall of some forty-two feet would have caused the injuries.

Lau Nan was the next witness. He said he was a shop coolie, residing 163, Queen's Road Central. On the night of the 15th inst. the deceased, he said, arrived from Canton. Next morning he called on witness and had breakfast. After the meal deceased asked witness to call the first defendant. Witness went to see Yuen Street and met the first defendant, who returned with him to the shop. The deceased and the first defendant had a conversation, after which the latter invited deceased out.

The Court—What time did you see the deceased again?

Witness—At 10.30 in my shop.

And then?—The deceased told me that the first defendant would call at the shop in the afternoon to receive some goods. I did not see the morning dead?—The deceased did not show it to me. I saw him making a drink at mid-day.

Did the first defendant come at 5 o'clock?—No.

When did he come?—He didn't. After our evening meal the deceased asked me to accompany him to look for him.

Did you go?—Yes. We went to his boarding-house and discovered that the defendant was out.

Continuing, the witness stated that after visiting a few more houses they met the first defendant in Des Voeux Road, near Wing Koi Street. Returning to witness's shop, the first defendant, in witness's hearing, said to deceased:—"Don't renew the mortgage deed to-day. Come along with me to a house at 215, Des Voeux Road West. There I'll borrow \$50 from a relative and pay you on account." Deceased agreed, and went with him. Witness went also. When they arrived outside the house witness was told to wait below, while the first defendant and the deceased went up.

The Court—The first defendant?

They were away for about half an hour, witness continued, when the first defendant and a stranger came down the staircase and entered the street. The stranger addressing witness asked if he was a clansman of the deceased. Witness replied in the affirmative. How did this debt come about?—was the stranger's next question. Witness confessed he did not know. The first defendant then joined in. "Do you know if I owe your clansman anything?" he asked. Witness said he thought there was something of a

THE POISONING TRIAL.

EVIDENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT ANALYST.

Important evidence was adduced in the Police Court, last Friday afternoon, before Mr. J. H. Kemp, in the case in which Mak So is being charged with administering poison to two men—Lam Kwai, the master of the Cheong Hop shoemaker shop, Wellington Street, and Lai So, an apprentice, in May last, both of whom died shortly afterwards.

Chief Detective Inspector Hanson prosecuted. Mr. H. W. Golding, of Messrs. Golding, Baines and Morrell, appeared for the defence. The first witness called for attending to the case was Dr. W. V. Koch, who spoke to the prosecution of the two men, who were admitted to hospital on the 30th May. They died later.

Mr. A. C. Franklin, assistant analyst, said that he had examined some food which he had received from the police, and found thirty grains of arsenic therein. He also examined the stomach of the two men, locating a quantity of the poison there, too, which was sufficient to cause death.

The most important witness followed next. He was Lam Kwai, the cook, who was also affected by the poison, but who, fortunately, recovered. He deposed that after he had returned from the market on the 25th ult., he went to the third floor to prepare the meal. He here met the accused—the shop's accountant—who asked him to purchase some tea. Witness obeyed the order. After making some tea, he proceeded to cook rice. To his surprise some minutes later when he uncovered the pot he found that the rice had a peculiar red—reddish, yellow in fact. This alerted the witness, who sent for his master and the fohi to examine the rice. He defendant was the first, he said, to arrive, followed by another man, whom he did not know. Witness asked his opinion, and defendant ordered the rice to be thrown away. The rice was thrown into the slop bucket, witness being ordered to boil some more. Witness did so, and sent it to the ground floor, where it was eaten. The pot produced was the pot in which he boiled the rice. Witness knew the defendant for over 30 days. Defendant was a fohi in the Cheong Hop shop, and he slept in the shop. He was an accountant. Witness did not know whether he was a partner or not. Lam Kwai was the master, Lai So had no share. Witness had been employed in the Cheong Hop shop for over a month. The witness then proceeded to relate how, after the meal, his master, an assistant, and himself took ill suddenly and had to be sent to hospital. At this stage the case was further adjourned until next week.

BROKERS AT LUIGERHEADS.

ALLEGED DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS.

"X-Ray" writes to the *Chinese Gazette*, Shanghai, of 18th inst., as follows:—

I think it will be of very great interest to the investing and speculative public to peruse the following document which was posted at the Shanghai Stock Exchange to-day. The document reads as follows:—

SHANGHAI STOCK EXCHANGE.

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Shanghai Stock Exchange will be held at the Stock Exchange, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 3rd July, 1908, for the following purpose:—

- 1.—To consider the action of Gordius Nielsen in writing certain words in the Official Book for quoting transactions reported by Messrs. Toog and Read, and W. G. Pirie, and in making defamatory statements with reference to one of the aforesaid Members and to decide what action shall be taken in the matter.
- 2.—The following Resolution will be proposed by H. H. Read and seconded by Mr. S. S. Benjamin.

"That no member shall be permitted to advertise that he has any particular shares for sale or in purchase, but General Circulars of Market Quotations may be issued by any Member to his clients as heretofore."

By order of the Committee.

W. F. WINOGRAD, Secretary.

Shanghai, 27th June, 1908.

I am credibly informed that the particular remark written in the Official Book against a transaction reported as having taken place between Messrs. Toog and Read and Mr. W. G. Pirie was to the following effect: "This transaction is a fraud upon the public."

Without in any way taking sides in this Stock Exchange squabble, I may say that whether or no the transaction is of the nature so trenchantly described by Mr. Nielsen, the duty of the Committee of the Stock Exchange would clearly seem to be to properly investigate the matter and satisfy themselves one way or another as to whether the allegation is true or untrue before they attempt to sit in judgment on Mr. Nielsen. Having ascertained the truth of the case, their duty is equally clear; they must either take steps against Mr. Nielsen or against Messrs. Toog and Read, or against Mr. W. G. Pirie. The matter is of vital interest to the public, for if Mr. Nielsen's allegation should prove to be true the public is clearly being swindled.

As for the defamatory statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Nielsen "with reference to one of the aforesaid Members," it is equally clear that the Committee of the Stock Exchange has the remedy in their own hands. As far as I am aware Mr. Nielsen is a Danish subject, and if either Messrs. Toog and Read or Mr. W. G. Pirie feel that their characters have been defamed, they pursue a wrong course by laying their grievance before the committee of the Stock Exchange, who have no jurisdiction over Mr. Nielsen in a matter of this nature. In my opinion the public by whom the brokers are employed have a right to demand that either, or all of the three members clear their character by suing Mr. Nielsen for defamation of character.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

NEW REGULATIONS.

Chinese Public Opinion, published in Peking, says:—The Board of the Interior has drawn up seven regulations for the control of the opium traffic. They are:—

- (1) A depot is to be started in Peking to control the sale of opium.
- (2) The opium produced in any province must be consumed in that province only, and shall not be exported into any other province.
- (3) Every gate in Peking shall have an inspection to examine all merchandise passing in or out of the capital and to prevent the illegal passage of opium.
- (4) The Opioid Department shall search each ship arriving at Peking.
- (5) The police are to search throughout Peking and record the names of all opium smokers residing in the capital.
- (6) All opium not already disposed of by the various opium dens and shops shall be handed over to the Peking depot for disposal.
- (7) All opium smokers must apply to the police station for a license.

QUESTION OF AN ADJOURNMENT.

"SIDE MAN" ABOUT.

25th inst.

Much amusement was caused in the Supreme Court, this morning, when an adjournment was applied for in a certain case. The incident was that in which the Hung Yu Bank brought an action to recover the sum of \$1,000 from Chan Ah King, the well-known contractor, and Choo Lim Kam, which was alleged to be due on a promissory note dated 2nd March last.

Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. A. Holborn, Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, was for Chan Ah King.

The application for the adjournment was made by Mr. Holborn, who stated that his client was too ill to attend. He wrote to him yesterday for a medical certificate, and got a prescription! (Laughter).

Mr. Grist objected to the adjournment. He said that Chan Ah King was seen about the town yesterday.

Mr. Holborn:—That I don't know.

Mr. Grist observed that Mr. Morrell saw Chan Ah King at the Police Court yesterday morning—(laughter)—and looking in the direction of the reporters' box, added that he was sure one of the reporters saw him there, too. (Laughter).

Mr. Justice Compton said that if the man was about yesterday it did not follow that he could attend to-day.

Mr. Grist:—A man who does not go and see his doctor since last Friday is playing a fast-and-loose game with the law.

Mr. Holborn:—He has been to see his solicitor.

The Court, after further discussion, agreed to the adjournment, and the question of costs was reserved.

A COUNTRYMAN AND A DRAFT.

AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE.

25th inst.

A very extraordinary story, which has engaged the attention of the police authorities for nearly twenty-four hours, leaked out to-day. We give the story, as it was presented to us, with reserve.

A few days ago a middle-aged Chinaman arrived in the Colony from the interior to cash a draft for \$700 which had been sent to him by some relatives from abroad. Once the countryman proceeded to a salt dealer's shop, at 50, Connaught Road Central, there to live during his stay in Hongkong. Early yesterday morning, accompanied by a fohi from the shop, the countryman called at a Chinese bank at 116, Queen's Road Central, and had the draft cashed. This accomplished, they returned home. About an hour later the countryman's attention was drawn to the fact, by one of his friends to whom he had handed the roll of bills for examination, that one of the banknotes—a Chartered Bank one—was a forgery. The note in question was the second round for inspection, which disclosed that the banknote was originally of \$5 denomination and had been altered to represent \$700. The forgery was very clever indeed and could only have been detected, shall we say, by accident.

In less time than it would take to tell, the countryman and fohi were in the street and on their way to the bank. They arrived there out of breath, and saw one of the accountants, to whom the forged bill was handed.

"This banknote is a forgery," said the countryman's friend. "You gave us that this morning, and we want it changed."

The man addressed took the note, examined it, and denied all knowledge of having had such a bill in his possession. He then called a policeman and gave both men in charge. They were taken before Inspector Ritchie, at the Central Police Station, who detained them, and sent Detective Sergeant Wait to make inquiries. By midnight the sergeant had received sufficient information to allow him to turn the tables in a different direction. He obtained the release of the countryman and the fohi and took into custody two men belonging to the bank. They are—Tong Nam, the assistant accountant, and Ng Chun, an assistant.

At the Police Court this morning, they were charged with uttering an altered banknote, well knowing the same to have been altered.

Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon appeared for the defendants. The case was remanded, bail being allowed.

MARINE COURT.

In the Marine Court, this morning, before the Hon. Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., a policeman A.C. Burford charged Au Kwai, master of licensed steam launch *Kam Po*, (1) with unlawfully failing to stop his launch when called to do so by a Police officer at 8:30 a.m. and (2) with unlawfully failing to have legibly painted on each bow and stern of his launch the name and Chinese number of passengers the launch was allowed to carry on the 22nd inst. in Victoria Harbour. Defendant pleaded not guilty. Mr. O. D. Thomson defended the prisoner.

P.C. Burford stated that at about 8:30 a.m. on the 22nd inst., as he was coming from eastward, when the s.s. *Kumsang* was lying at Jardine's No. 1 buoy, he saw three launches embarking passengers from the s.s. *Kumsang*. He went west to the China Merchants' wharf and returned, when he saw that one launch had gone. He steamed up and down, watching them, as they seemed inclined to carry an excess of passengers. At last, one showed off, when he was told to stop. He then called the Harbour Office, and he turned and went towards her, blowing four blasts. He could not be sure that she could have heard him. He then steered for the wharf he thought she was making for and blew four blasts again twice. After the second blast, when about 300 to 400 yards off, he distinctly saw some of the passengers gesticulating and pointing towards him. He then blew again, and noticed that they were waving up, and they turned and made for the right angle to each other. She ran alongside the pier with the passengers standing on the gunwale and hanging on to the awnings, and as soon as she got to the pier they jumped and ran off the pier. He counted 25 passengers. He then went alongside, and found another launch between her and the wharf, just showing off with a load of passengers. She had several of her passengers on board, and made them get back into defendant's boat. He counted eleven who went back. He asked defendant why he did not stop, but he got no reply and refused to speak. He then counted the passengers remaining on board and found 78, all told, of each.

By Mr. O. D. Thomson:—The other launch alongside the pier was a Yau-mai ferry launch. The defendant's launch had stopped when he got alongside.

Defendant stated that he was carrying passengers from the *Kumsang*. He did not hear any whistle. When near the wharf, one of his crew told him that the police launch was approaching and he immediately went astern. He was alongside the wharf at the time. He was fined \$5, or, in default, 14 days' hard labour. The second charge was adjourned till noon on Monday, the 29th inst.

THE TIENTSIN-PUKOU RAILWAY.

A Peking correspondent writes:—

Under instructions from the President of the Ministry of Posts and Communications, Taitai Li, Teh-chun, who speaks and writes German fluently, Managing Director of the northern section of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, has purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of the station of the Imperial Railways of North China at Tientsin for the erection of a station goods yard, store and workshop.

A similar site has also been purchased by Viceroy Tuan Fang, for the same purposes, at Pukou. The land bought by Taitai Li measures about 800 mu in area and the construction works will be commenced shortly under the direction of Mr. Dormmüller, chief engineer for the German section, who has left Tientsin for Shanghai to survey the route in connection with the Managing Director in order that the building of the line may be begun within six months—i.e., in August next—as stipulated in the agreement signed on February 13, 1908.

CHINESE BANK NOTES.

The number of Chinese bank notes circulating in the Settlement is rapidly assuming large proportions, in spite of the fact that, with the exception of those of the Imperial Bank of China, they are not accepted by the Foreign Banks. Already there are Sing Cheong, Hsing-yi, Yu-nung and Yu-su notes, while a more formidable rival about to enter the arena in the form of the Tientsin Bank and, under the Chiao Tung, is to follow hard upon it, the refusal of the Foreign Banks to recognize the notes of the Yu-nung and Yu-su Banks of Nanking and Soochow respectively has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Finance and through Viceroy Tuan Fang steps are being taken to procure for these notes the guarantee of the Provincial Treasuries of Kiangning and Kiangsu.

In the case of the Tientsin Bank, which has also appealed within the last two weeks to the Foreign Banks to accept its provisional issue of notes, the claim to State recognition is put forward with some degree of confidence, according to its articles of association this Bank takes the place of the Hupui Bank, with an increase of the original capital of the superseded institution from Tls. 4,000,000 to Tls. 10,000,000, and of the 100,000 shares representing the latter amount the Imperial Government takes up one half. Moreover, the Bank has already been made State Bankers for the bonds of the Tientsin-Pukou Railway, and to pay to note circulation the salaries of officials, both civil and military. The Capital is to be paid in part in its notes. A savings bank department is to be added to it, and its business is to be national in the full meaning of the term.

In spite, however, of the Imperial sanction with which the Tientsin Yung Tung begins its operations, it is hardly a matter for surprise that the Foreign Banks should view with uneasiness the somewhat irresponsible growth of Chinese bank notes, and be unwilling to abandon in any one instance the attitude they have adopted on the subject in accordance with established usage regarding note circulation. This usage, as is well known, requires a substantial reserve to be kept by each Bank to meet the liabilities incurred in the issue of notes; but the practice is not customary in Chinese banking, although the system of notes has been in vogue in the country since 806 A.D. But it would appear that the firm attitude taken up by the Foreign Banks on this point has not failed of its effect upon the Chinese authorities concerned and the banking community in general. The proposal to make the Kiangning and Kiangsu Treasuries responsible for the redemption of the notes of the Yu-nung and Yu-su Banks respectively, in the event of the failure of either of these institutions, is an attempt to meet the objection that no silver reserve is held against these notes. At the same time the Ministry of Finance is credited with having under its consideration new regulations for the administration of native banks, in which provision will be made for a cash reserve against notes in circulation. In the articles of association of the Tientsin Bank reference is made to these prospective regulations, and it may well be that the Directors of this National Bank intend to adopt foreign custom in regard to their issue of notes. Meanwhile, however, the Bank would seem to have been allowed to begin operations and its business, including the issue of notes, will be conducted provisionally on lines that would not commend themselves to a foreign banking community. Accordingly, until the regulations governing native banks have been promulgated to the foreign bank authorities, the latter cannot be blamed for refusing to incur liabilities in connexion with unprotected issues of notes. It would be open to the Tientsin Bank to obtain recognition for its notes by guaranteeing them to the Diplomatic Body, that all its liabilities would be met; and in the same way the support being the Yu-nung, Yu-su and other Banks should be Imperial and not provincial.

Although the history of banking in China dates back to a period when the science was unknown to Europe, the system has preserved until more recent times its primitive organization. With the exception of the facilities provided by the circumstance that the banking business was for the most part a close monopoly of the Shanghai men, as individual bank's operations were confined to a single town, sometimes to a single street. The more elaborate precautions were taken to prevent the counterfeiting of notes, and as the necessity for transferring funds long distances existed in a very restricted form, the system presented few drawbacks. For forty years prior to 1900 the issue of notes was left entirely to private banks, and it is only recently that the attention of the provincial governments has been drawn to the advantages of a note issue in view of the absorption of their revenues for the frequent transfer of funds has large amounts of specie become more and more obvious. But with the increase in banking business come both a less strict code of business morality and in the case of notes less elaborate precautions against fraud. These two points can hardly be overlooked at the present juncture, and it becomes imperative in the interests of both Chinese and foreigners to see that a wide circulation of notes should not lead to any serious complications. From the Minutes of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce it will be seen that the subject has been under discussion between the Municipal Council and the Senior Council. The strong attitude taken up by the banking and commercial sections of the community should convince the Chinese banks and the Central Government that the indiscriminate issue of notes by any bank that calls itself into existence is fraught with danger to Chinese trade and to China's business reputation. —N. C. D. News.

At the "Special Pool" competition held under the auspices of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association—Mr. W. L. Lok was the first with a total of 101.

INSPECTOR WARMOCK'S RETIREMENT.

FIRST MAGISTRATE'S COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

Inspector W. G. Warmock, one of the most popular members of the Hongkong Police Force, leaves for the Homeland to-morrow by the P. and O. steamer *Arctica* on a well-earned furlough, with twenty-three years' service to his credit.

Mr. J. H. Kemp (police magistrate) took the opportunity this morning of addressing a few complimentary remarks to the retiring inspector on the eve of his departure. The court-room was crowded with spectators, among whom were Mr. J. R. Wood (second police magistrate) and Mr. P. J. Wodehouse (deputy superintendent of police).

Mr. Kemp, speaking for himself and his colleagues (Mr. Wood) said that he was very glad that the time had arrived for Mr. Warmock to receive his pension, for which he had worked hard during his lengthy service in the Police Force, but he regretted to have to part with him. He was glad to record his appreciation of the officer's good work, the impartiality with which he conducted his cases which he brought before the Court, and his fairness towards the prisoners. Mr. Kemp then proceeded to cite examples of the magnanimity displayed by the police in Hongkong in settling their cases. Of course, it was the duty of the police to deal fairly with prisoners, and he was sure that the police officers of Hongkong were not lacking in this respect. The public, he observed, did not realize the good work that was being done by the Police Force. As a member of the local constabulary Inspector Warmock had shown tact, energy and ability in the performance of his duties—a matter which England should be proud of. He wished him a happy voyage and long life in the Homeland—the sentiments of everyone who knew the gentleman.

Mr. Warmock, in a few words, thanked Mr. Kemp for his kind remarks, and the pleasing function terminated.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

HOUSE COLLAPSE.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 19th June.

The heavy and continuous rain of the last few days, besides causing flood, has also done damage to house property. Yesterday a house at Kwai Tai Mun gate—the store of a dealer in ivory ware—suddenly collapsed, with the result that one man was killed and four others were more or less injured.

RICE SALES.

The daily proceeds from the sale of cheap rice in the four sheds during the days from the 16th to 19th of this month were as follows:—

East	West	Wongsha	Honam
16th	\$2,598	\$1,082	\$1,551
17th	\$2,730	\$1,082	\$1,453
18th	\$2,701	\$1,082	\$1,440
19th	\$2,185	\$1,092	\$1,471

The new Junior Lieutenant Tarter General, Chong, has wired to Canton from Hongkong, where he is now staying, that he will leave for Canton on the 20th instant. While on his way to Canton Chong will stop at Fati for a day and he will not arrive at Canton until the morning of the 22nd instant.

CLAN FIGHT.

The officials of the Sunning district have forwarded an urgent despatch to the Viceroy, in which they informed the Viceroy that a clan fight of a serious character was in progress near the Tou Shan market place, and asked the Viceroy to at once send a body of troops to the scene to suppress the disturbance. In compliance with the request Taitai Weng, accompanied by the Brigadier-General of Kwangchow, with a number of troops left here yesterday to proceed to the place to suppress the disturbance.

THE JAPANESE BOYCOTT.

The marine produce dealers at the port of Kowloon have not, until recently, held a meeting to discuss the advisability of joining the Japanese boycott movement. They have since, however, agreed that they would not purchase any more Japanese marine produce on and after the 9th instant, and that a fine of 100 taels will be imposed on any offender failing to observe the agreement; and, on failure to pay the fine, when imposed, the offender will be dismissed from membership of their guild.

TARTAR GENERAL.

The Canton Junior Lieutenant Tarter General, Chong, took over the seal of office to-day. This official is to occupy the position left vacant by the transfer of Marquis Li Kwok Kit last year.

OPIMUM HABITUES.

Those officials in Canton who are addicted to the habit of opium smoking are required to obtain admission, between the 23rd inst. and 21st prox., into the Opium Refuge which has been opened, by order of the Viceroy.

CONSULAR VISIT.

At 10 o'clock this morning, H.E. the Viceroy received the Japanese Consul at Canton.

RAILWAY CO.'S CALL.

The Canton-Hankow Railway Company has received a letter from the leading members of the railway shareholders in Hongkong, in which they informed the Company that they can, by no means, be made to take up the responsibilities of collecting the 2nd call on shares for the Company.

THE OPIUM CAMPAIGN.

The Canton police authorities have again issued a proclamation to prohibit the sale of opium-smoking apparatus in Canton.

THE JAPANESE BOYCOTT.

The Japanese Consul called on the Viceroy yesterday. It is reported that the purpose of his visit was to request His Excellency take steps to suppress the anti-Japanese movement in Canton.

RICE SALES.

The daily proceeds realized from the distribution of cheap rice in the four sheds during the days from the 21st day to the 24th day of this month were as follows:—

East	West	Honam	Wongsha
21st	\$3,950	\$1,790	\$1,613
22nd	\$3,950	\$1,790	\$1,613
23rd	\$3,950	\$1,790	\$1,613
24th	\$3,950	\$1,790	\$1,613

From the above figures it will be seen that, owing to the flood, the distribution of cheap rice during the last few days has considerably increased and that the poor people have to depend on these sheds for their daily sustenance.

THE KAIO TUNG YAM HANO.

The manager of the proposed Canton Kaitung Yung Hano, Mr. Chan Ping Wong, arrived here to-day. His official has been appointed by the Ministry of Communications and Posts.

LIKING COLLECTIONS.

The amount of Likings collected in Canton, as reported by the Likin officials for the second period of ten days of the 6th moon was 1,174,181.4.

THE "IRYU MARU."

QUICK PASSAGE TO HONOLULU.

This splendid new steamer of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's fleet left Hongkong June 22nd on her maiden trip, arriving at Keelung on June 23rd at 3 p.m., an average speed of 18 knots per hour. From Keelung to Shanghai she reached an average of nearly 19 knots, and this speed was maintained to Nagasaki. She left Yokohama on June 24th with a cargo of 6,750 tons, including 10,900 bales of silk and 8,450 cases of tea, and a total of 103 passengers. The cable has been received stating that she arrived at Honolulu on the 23rd inst., making the trip from Yokohama to Honolulu in the quick time of 8 days 5 hours.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write on 26th inst.:

During the week under review, business has been very quiet, and we have to again report a general all round slackness in our market.

Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been sold during the week at \$75, closing weak at \$75. The London rate has not fluctuated and remains at 78.1/2.

Marine Insurance—North China are neglected. The 7th and Canton at \$235. Unions are steady at \$700, at which rate they can probably be sold. Small sale of Vangies have been effected locally at \$154, while buyers rule the Northern market at the same rate.

Fire Insurance.—There are buyers of both China Fires and Hongkong Fires, at quotations.

Shipping.—China and Manila continue out of favour at \$15. Douglases are firm at \$37. There are buyers of Hongkong, Canton and Siam Steamboats at the slightly reduced rate of \$50. India China have further weakened to \$40 and \$50, for the preferred and deferred shares respectively, at which rates joint sales have taken place, closing with further buyers. Star Ferries old and new are unaltered and without business to report.

Refineries.—China Sugars have maintained their position, during the week, and continue to rule quiet at \$130. Luxons and Perak Sugars are unchanged.

Mining.—Chinese Engineering are somewhat easier in the North at Tls 15. Rauba have declined to \$7. From private telegraphic advices received from Singapore we learn that the result of the crushing of this Company for the past period of four weeks yielded 995 ozs. gold from 5,724 tons stone.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves are steady at the slightly reduced rate of \$50. Whampoa Docks are quiet at \$103, without business to report. An improvement in Shanghai Docks has set in, and sales have been effected at Tls. 82. Hongkong Wharves have suffered a heavy decline, but at the close, there are inquiries in the North at Tls. 220.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Central Stores can be placed at \$12. Hongkong Lands and Hongkong Hotels are unchanged and can be obtained at quotations. Humphreys Estates are wanted at \$10, but none are obtainable.

Cotton Mills.—Ewos are inquired for at Tls. 36. Hongkong Cottons have been dealt in at \$17. Internationals have weakened to \$52 with sales at the rate. Lau Kung Mows have been sold at the improved rate of Tls. 84, while Soy Chees have sellers at the reduced rate of Tls. 245.

Miscellaneous.—China Boron can probably be had at \$10, and China Providents at \$9. Green Ice and Cement are firmer at \$10. In the North, Hall and Holts have found buyers at \$10. Watson's rubber at \$10, while William Powells have buyers at \$10. A light drop in Langkats has taken place in the North, and sales have been effected at Tls. 221. Sumatras are likewise easier, with sellers at Tls. 88.

Exchange.—The Banks selling rate on London is 110 3/16 on demand. The T/T. rate on Shanghai is 74 1/2.

Dividends.—Payable.—Shanghai Docks—Final of Tls. 21, for year ending 30th April, 1908, payable in Shanghai on the 7th July.

Indo-Chinese—dividend of 6 1/2% on preference shares for year ending 31st December, 1907, payable in London on the 27th inst.

YARN MARKET.

In their report dated 26th instant, Messrs. Philonthia B. Pell & Co. write:—

Our last circular was dated the 23rd inst. The past fortnight is conspicuous by reason of the disastrous floods which have overtaken the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, sweeping off the face of the paddy fields the small remnants of the first rice crop which was about to be garnered, and the sharp rise in Exchange. A combination of these factors has brought about a complete demoralisation of the yarn market.

Early in the period under review buyers were in the market for some selected threads, notably Nos. 108, and 122, but no sooner had news arrived from the interior of the extensive inundation which has reduced the entire cultivable area from Wuchow to Sainam into an expansive sheet of water, than there was a complete cessation of orders. It is little wonder when it is considered that the recuperative ability of the consuming districts is now entirely problematic. It is known for certain that hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of the Yangtze Provinces are reduced to paddy wharves as many if not more are actually on the verge of starvation. Relief measures, in which the Hongkong Chinese merchants are co-operating wholeheartedly, have been organised in Canton both by the Provincial authorities and on the initiative of private benevolence. Meanwhile the yarn market is wholly paralysed as far as Chinese dealers are concerned. Some have already made tentative attempts to obtain a certain amount of prices for closed contracts; it is doubtful if, in the present precarious state of affairs, engagements can be fulfilled in full.

No. 207—A very limited business was done in selected threads only at a decline of \$5 to \$3 per bale.

No. 157—No business reported.

No. 122—A moderate business was done in selected threads at a decline of \$1 to \$2.

No. 107—In moderate demand at a decline of \$1 to \$2.

No. 87, and 67—No business reported.

The market closes dull and quiet.

Sales—1,350 bales of No. 107, 650 bales of No. 122, and 400 bales of No. 207, in all about 2,400 bales.

Arrivals:—For steamers *Calcutta*, *Aber*, *Nanking*, and *Kumang* (from Calcutta) and *Nippon*, *Yokohama*, *Mura*, *Osaka*, and *Kawachi* (from Bombay) of about 7,500 bales.

Unsold Stock:—About 24,000 bales.

Uncleared Stock:—About 14,000 bales.

Exchange.—We quote to-day as follows:—

India	T.T.	At Rs.	100 per cent.
London	110 3/16	74 1/2	100
Shanghai	74 1/2	100	100
Hongkong	74 1/2	100	100

Selling.

London—Bank T.T. 110 3/16
Do. demand 110 3/16
Do. 10 days 110 3/16
Do. 1 month 110 3/16
Do. 3 months 110 3/16
Do. 6 months 110 3/16
Do. 9 months 110 3/16
Do. 12 months 110 3/16
Do. 18 months 110 3/16
Do. 24 months 110 3/16
Do. 30 months 110 3/16
Do. 36 months 110 3/16
Do. 42 months 110 3/16
Do. 48 months 110 3/16
Do. 54 months 110 3/16
Do. 60 months 110 3/16
Do. 66 months 110 3/16
Do. 72 months 110 3/16
Do. 78 months 110 3/16
Do. 84 months 110 3/16
Do. 90 months 110 3/16
Do. 96 months 110 3/16
Do. 102 months 110 3/16
Do. 108 months 110 3/16
Do. 114 months 110 3/16
Do. 120 months 110 3/16
Do. 126 months 110 3/16
Do. 132 months 110 3/16
Do. 138 months 110 3/16
Do. 144 months 110 3/16
Do. 150 months 110 3/16
Do. 156 months 110 3/16
Do. 162 months 110 3/16
Do. 168 months 110 3/16
Do. 174 months 110 3/16
Do. 180 months 110 3/16
Do. 186 months 110 3/16
Do. 192 months 110 3/16
Do. 198 months 110 3/16
Do. 204 months 110 3/16
Do. 210 months 110 3/16
Do. 216 months 110 3/16
Do. 222 months 110 3/16
Do. 228 months 110 3/16
Do. 234 months 110 3/16
Do. 240 months 110 3/16
Do. 246 months 110 3/16
Do. 252 months 110 3/16
Do. 258 months 110 3/16
Do. 264 months 110 3/16
Do. 270 months 110 3/16
Do. 276 months 110 3/16
Do. 282 months 110 3/16
Do. 288 months 110 3/16
Do. 294 months 110 3/16
Do. 300 months 110 3/16
Do. 306 months 110 3/16
Do. 312 months 110 3/16
Do. 318 months 110 3/16
Do. 324 months 110 3/16
Do. 330 months 110 3/16
Do. 336 months 110 3/16
Do. 342 months 110 3/16
Do. 348 months 110 3/16
Do. 354 months 110 3/16
Do. 360 months 110 3/16
Do. 366 months 110 3/16
Do. 372 months 110 3

SHARE QUOTATIONS

Supplied by Messrs. R. S. KAPOOR & Co. Continued to noon; late alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence" page 3.

STOCKS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	PAID UP	RESERVE	AT WORKING ACCOUNT	LAST DIVIDEND	APPROPRIATION AT MEETING BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS
BANKS								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	\$125	\$125	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,387	Final of 12 on old and 12.10 on new shares for 4-year ending 31.12.07	12 1/2	\$27 1/2
Nations Bank of China, Limited	90,000	£7	£8	\$15,000	\$10,223	\$2 (London 3/6) for 1901	...	\$5 1/2
MARINE INSURANCES								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000	none	\$20 for 1906	8 1/2	\$25 1/2 sellers
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	\$1,500,000	Tls. 204,424	Interim of 7/6 ex 2/3 for 1907	6 1/2	Tls. 77 1/2
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	12,400	\$250	\$100	\$3,000,000	\$2,506,611	Final of \$15 making \$45 for 1906 and Interim of \$30 for 1907	11 1/2	\$700
Anglo-Siam Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	\$100	\$60	\$1,000,000	\$191,763	\$1 and bonus \$3 for 1906	9 1/2	\$12 1/2 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$1,000,000	\$574,454	\$5 and bonus \$2 for 1906	8 1/2	\$92 buyers
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000	\$428,027	\$27 for 1906	8 1/2	\$15 1/2 buyers
SHIPPING								
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	\$25	\$25	\$7,500	\$1,035	\$1 for 1906	...	\$15 1/2
Pongas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$5,000	Nil	\$4 for year ending 30.11.07	10 1/2	\$27
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$12,000	\$16,437	\$1 1/2 for 2nd half-year making in all \$2 1/2 for year ending 31.12.07	7 1/2	\$29 buyers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred)	60,000	£5	£5	\$60,000	£3,694	\$1 for 1906 @ ex 2/3 = \$2.14 per share	11 1/2	\$44 buyers \$20 buyers
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	200,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 14,510	Final of Tls. 1 1/2 making Tls. 3 1/2 for 1907	7 1/2	Tls. 44 sales
Shell Transport and Trading Company, Limited	1,000,000	£1	£1	£1,000,000	£72,370	Second interim of 1/2 (Coupon No. 9) a/c 1907	7 1/2	Tls. 52 sales
Star Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	\$10,000	\$98	\$1.00 for year ending 31.12.07	4 1/2	\$25
Taka Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 10,000	6,869	Final of Tls. 2 1/2 making Tls. 5 for 1907	12 1/2	Tls. 49 sellers
MINING								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	100	100	\$5,000	Dr. \$279,371	\$8 for year ending 31.12.07	...	\$130
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	\$700	Dr. \$15,151	\$10 for 1907	...	\$22
Perak Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 100,000	Tls. 9,171	Tls. 1 (8 1/2) for year ending 31.12.07	...	Tls. 23 buyers
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS								
Fenwick (Gen.) & Co., Limited	18,000	125	125	\$5,601	\$3,726	\$1.75 for year ending 31.12.07	...	\$13
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	60,000	150	150	\$6,000	\$5,556	Final of \$1 1/2 making \$3 1/2 for 1907	7 1/2	\$50 buyers
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	50,000	\$50	\$50	\$10,000	\$44,444	Final of \$3 making \$8 for 1907	7 1/2	\$104
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	55,700	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 1,000,000	Tls. 10,459	Interim of Tls. 2 1/2 for six months ending 31st October, 1907	6 1/2	Tls. 82 sales
Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Company, Limited	36,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 75,000	Tls. 22,626	Final of Tls. 9 making Tls. 17 for 1907	7 1/2	Tls. 20 buyers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 2,500	Tls. 6,551	Tls. 6 for 1907	6 1/2	Tls. 101 sales
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	30,000	\$25	\$25	\$7,500	\$10,008	\$2 1/2 for year ending 30.6.07	11 1/2	\$20 buyers
Central Hotel, Limited	50,000	\$15	\$15	\$7,500	\$9,178	\$1.50 for 1906	...	\$12 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	\$50	\$50	\$6,000	\$22	Final of \$1 1/2 making \$7 1/2 for 1907	7 1/2	\$95
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$100	\$5,000	\$26,915	Final of \$3 1/2 making in all \$7 for year ending 31.12.07	7 1/2	\$100 sellers
Humphreys, Estate & Finance Company, Limited	150,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,500	\$4,621	70 cents for 1907	6 1/2	\$104
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	6,000	\$50	\$50	\$300	653	\$1 1/2 for 1907	6 1/2	\$26 sales
Kowloon Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 1,950,000	Tls. 107,547	Final of Tls. 3 and bonus of Tls. 1 making in all Tls. 4 for 1907	6 1/2	Tls. 123 sales
West Point Building Company, Limited	12,500	\$50	\$50	\$625	\$1,541	Final of \$2.10 making in all \$4.10 for year ending 31.12.07	8 1/2	\$48
COTTON MILLS								
Hong Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 150,000	8,807	Tls. 2 1/2 for year ending 31.10.1907	4 1/2	Tls. 56 buyers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving & Dyeing Company, Limited	125,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,250	\$14,109	50 cents for year ending 31.7.07	4 1/2	\$11 sales
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	Tls. 150,000	85,519	Tls. 6 for year ending 30.9.06 (8 1/2)	...	Tls. 62 sales
Luen-tung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	none	Tls. 6,301	Tls. 8 for 1906	...	Tls. 82 sales
Toy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 500	Tls. 25,000	50,003	Tls. 50 for 1906	...	Tls. 245 sales
MISCELLANEOUS								
Hell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	12/6	12/6	\$1,299	£018	1/2 per share for 1906	9 1/2	\$7 1/2
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	\$12	\$12	\$7,200	Nil	\$1.20 for 1907	11 1/2	\$104
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	\$10	\$10	\$5,000	\$25,000	60 cents for year ended 31.12.06	10 1/2	\$104
China Do. special shares	50,000	\$1	\$1	\$50,000	\$25,000	80 cents for 1907	8 1/2	\$9 1/2
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	125,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,250	\$13,593	\$1.30 for year ending 31.7.07	6 1/2	\$20
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	25,000	\$7 1/2	\$6	\$1,875	\$2,974	Final of 75 cents making in all \$1 1/2 for 1907	11 1/2	\$104
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	\$10	\$10	\$4,000	\$5,078	75 cents for 9 months ending 31.12.07	8 1/2	\$12 buyers
H. Price & Company, Limited	12,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,200	\$25	\$2 for year ending 31.12.07	10 1/2	\$104 sales
Rail & Hols, Limited	21,000	\$20	\$20	\$4,200	8 9 7	\$1 and bonus 20 cts. for year ending 29.12.06	7 1/2	\$16
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$9,321	Final of \$15 making in all \$10 for 1907	8 1/2	\$25 buyers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	\$25	\$25	\$125,000	\$4,578	Final of \$1.20 making in all \$3 for 1907	8 1/2	\$25 buyers
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$6,000	\$8,171	Interim of Tls. 10 for 2nd quarter	6 1/2	Tls. 324 sales
Messerschmitt, Ltd. (Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd.)	25,000	Ga. 100	Ga. 100	Tls. 27,500	Tls. 17,127	80 cents on fully paid shares and 4 cents on 1/2 paid shares for year ending 30.4.08	6 1/2	\$14
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	\$10	\$10	\$2,500	\$7,471	Final of 30 cts. making 60 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	...	\$5 buyers
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	\$10	\$10	none	Nil	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 7 1/2 for 1907	6 1/2	Tls. 113 sales
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 120,000	Tls. 6,603	Final of Tls. 9 making in all Tls. 14 for 1907	10 1/2	Tls. 88 sales
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 24,820	Tls. 8,493	Final of 57/6 making 52/6 for 1907	...	Tls. 285 sales
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,350	£20	£20	Tls. 190,000	Tls. 58,332	None	...	\$8
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	\$25	\$25	none	Dr. \$9,437	40 cents for year ending 31.5.07	6 1/2	Tls. 97 sales
Steam Laundry Company, Limited	20,000	\$5	\$5	none	201	Tls. 6 1/2 for year ending 30.4.07	4 1/2	\$11
Union Waterworks Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 4,000	201	80 cents on 9,000 ord. shares and \$5.80 on 100 F.O. ord. shares for year ending 31.12.07	6 1/2	\$18
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$4	\$35,000	\$1,300	Final of 30 cts. making 60 cts. for year ending 31.12.07	6 1/2	\$10 sales
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited	90,000	110	\$10	\$9,000	\$6,438	Final of 30 cts. making 60 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	...	\$5 buyers
William Powell, Limited	15,000	\$10	\$10	none	\$41	Final of 30 cts. making 60 cts. for the year ended 30th June, 1906	...	\$5 buyers

* These shares are entitled to half of the profits.

DIVIDENDS PAYABLE—

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BOTH President Roosevelt and Mr. W. H. Taft are reported to be in favour of the nomination of Mr. G. B. Cortelyou, Secretary of the Treasury, for Vice-President.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to recognize, provisionally and pending the receipt of His Majesty's assent, Mr. João Yacquin Leiria as consul for Portugal in Hongkong.

Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, Postmaster General, has been appointed Colonial Treasurer, during the absence on leave of the Honourable Mr. A. M. Thomson, or until further notice, with effect from the 16th inst.

THE Viceroy at Nanking has wired to the Peking Government that it is noteworthy that there are many joint stock companies with limited liability in China and it is necessary to prohibit the forgery of share certificates.

THE two Chinamen who are accused of murdering a compatriot, by throwing him over a window, at West Point, some weeks ago, were, at the Police Court, last Thursday, committed to stand their trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

MR. J. YOKOSAWA, Chief of the Pescadores, was arrested on June 4 on a charge of having embezzled money belonging to the Keelung office while engaged there before his appointment to his present office and also of having forged official letters.

THE Viceroy has received instructions from the Capital to present ten dollars and two rolls of satin to an old lady residing in this province, who has reached the age of one hundred and five, as an imperial gift from their Majesties. —*Hankow Daily News.*

THE Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association had on March 31st, 1908, a membership of 219, a decrease of 29 during the past 12 months. Rifle practice is carried out on 2 days a week throughout the year at King's Park Rifle Range, Kowloon, and at the Peak Range.

THE sales of opium a day in Siam average some 2,300 taels, or 59,000 taels per month. No far the lowest sales this year were in the beginning of May, when those for the first days only amounted to some 2,180 taels a day. This, of course, at the present Government rate means some 15,260 a day.

HIS Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to Ordinance No. 11 of 1908. An Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of one hundred and sixty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty-five dollars and eighty-five cents, to defray the charges of the Year 1907.

THE council system of Japanese and Korean judges is to be adopted in Courts of appeal in July. All departmental chiefs of the Appeal and Local Courts are to be Japanese, while the posts of Procurators are to be equally shared between Japanese and Koreans. About sixty more Japanese lawyers have been engaged by the Korean Government.

THE eight clans of Imperial Rannermen have hitherto drawn emolument for each member of their families. Henceforth this is to be discontinued and the sons of such clansmen shall not be entitled to receive said emoluments until they have obtained graduation certificates from the primary schools. The funds in the interim will be diverted towards the payment of the cost of their education.

EARLY last Monday morning, a Chinaman was found by the police lying in a gutter in Des Voeux Road Central, bleeding freely from numerous wounds about his head and body. The man was unconscious. On inquiries it was learnt that the coolie had fallen from the top floor of house 206, where he was employed. It is not known how the accident, if accident it was, came about. The police are investigating the matter.

THE *Chiao Tung Daily News* states that an attempt was made during the afternoon of June 5 by five of the yamen servants to obtain possession of H.E. Taotai Hui's seal. When the attempt was made the Taotai's wife, who was in the room, interfered and was immediately stabbed by the ruffian. The ruffian then tried to help her by his Excellency, who upon going to her assistance was set upon and an attempt made to strangle him. Fortunately his riders had followed him and soon had the men overpowered.

THE Chinese woman, who was accused of kidnapping a servant girl from her guardian at Lower Lascar Row the other day, was convicted at the Police Court, last Friday. It will be remembered that the girl was enticed away from her house by a man who "looked like a beggar," and taken to this woman's house. She was on the point of being taken to Macao to be sold when she was found by the police. The beggarly-looking individual cannot be found. The woman was given six months' hard labour.

THE following appears in the Government *Gazette*—With reference to Government notification No. 194 of the 20th of last March, it is hereby notified that the only one purchased by the Government *Gazette* has applied to have corrected copy of the local *Hansard* included with the copy of the *Gazette* issued next but one after each meeting of the Legislative Council, the offer made in Government Notification No. 194 is now withdrawn, and any person who desires to obtain copies of the local *Hansard* should order them direct from the publishers.

CHO FUNG CHI, a foreign goods shop keeper, was charged before Mr. Kemp last Tuesday with (1) feloniously and with intent to defraud did after a bill of exchange from \$9,000 to \$7,775 yen, and (2) did attempt to dispose of same. Mr. Descoe appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Otto Kong Sing defended. The defendant pleaded not guilty. The facts as far as could be gathered were that defendant tried to negotiate the bill with a third party who took the precaution of first making inquiries at the Yokohama Specie Bank, hence the discovery. The case was adjourned for a week; bail allowed in \$10,000.

IP KAM MUN is certain that he was not justly treated this morning (20th inst.). He is a youth and lives with his parents on a cargo boat. This morning, he was arraigned in the Police Court, charged with stealing \$10 worth of wood, the property of the owners of the steamer *Ying-king*. Young Ip started out "early to-day in search of some wood with which to cook 'chow.' He did not find any lying about the street, and he was returning to his junk very downhearted when he sighted the *Ying-king* moored alongside her wharf. He also sighted her gangway, which he thought would make good firewood. Getting a chopper Ip proceeded to smash it up. He had succeeded in destroying half the gangway, when he was spotted by the chief officer—Mr. S. Newman—and handed over to the police. Ip swore to the magistrate that he picked up the wood from the sea. This the magistrate did not believe, and Ip was ordered to be detained in prison for a day, and to be whipped—twelve strokes.

THE Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., announces that the total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending June 13, 1908, amounted to 25,375 29 tons and the sales during the period to 24,607 75 tons.

WHILE the *U.S. Collier* *Agua* was leaving the harbour for Singapore last Tuesday, a would-be emigrant jumped into the sea, and was rescued by the tender *Stanley*. The man was picked up in his last gasp, and was turned over to the Water Police.

THE Toyo Kisen Kaisha's *Yengo Maru* is carrying for purposes of trial a new automatic apparatus designed to indicate in advance possible dangers arising from the bottom of the sea. The apparatus is the invention of Capt. Makimura, of the Japanese Navy.

THE Wanchai police were responsible for three gambling raids last Sunday. Two of the raids were executed at Quarry Bay, eighteen men being caught. The next raid was at 20, Macgregor Street. There, twelve arrests were effected. In all thirty men were captured. They were charged in the Police Court, on Monday morning, and punished.

Owing to the unsettled state of the weather a seaman named Ip Sui Chan obtained, by some means yet to be explained, a pair of sea-boots. A jealous policeman lost no time in having Ip locked up, charged with being in possession of property alleged to have been stolen. Unfortunately Ip could not give a satisfactory explanation, and he was charged before Mr. Kemp to-day, and remanded.

A HOUSE "boy"—Chan Fook Hong, of 50, Elgin Street, Kowloon—was arrested by the Tsim-tai-tai police last Sunday on a charge of larceny by bailie. Defendant, it was alleged, obtained on hire a bicycle from Nazir Mahomed's cycle store in Arsenal Street, and did not return with it. The bicycle was valued at \$6. He was charged in the Police Court, on Monday morning, and remanded.

JAMES PEARSON, the foreman moulder of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, was charged on remand in the Police Court, with obtaining the sum of \$8.50, the property of the company, under false pretences. Another remand for a week was allowed to enable the auditors to examine the books. Mr. P. W. Goldring is retained for the defence. Bail in the sum of \$1,000 was granted.

H. E. ADMIRAL Sah, Commander-in-Chief of the combined Peking and Nanyang squadrons, arrived at Amoy on Saturday in his flagship, the *Hai-fai*. His Excellency is charged with the duty of making preparations, in conjunction with the Amoy Taotai Liu Ching-fen, for the entertainment of the American Pacific Fleet when it visits that port in the autumn. We understand that the Ministry of Finance will place at the disposal of the Waiwup on behalf a million dollars towards this object, one half of which sum is to be provided by the Shanghai Customs.

"NIL DESPERANDUM," writing from Hongkong to the *Daily Mail*, says:—Japan at the present moment has two advantages over the rest of the world, neither of which is likely to be permanent—these are Government subsidies and cheap production. Subsidies are merely another way of expressing loss, and cheap production depends on cost of living. As elsewhere, this is rapidly rising in Japan. Therefore, provided we are ready to adapt ourselves to altered conditions, and produce the best possible quantity at the lowest possible price, we need not lose heart.

A DISTURBANCE was nearly created at A-shi-chau, Aberdeen, last Wednesday. A police officer arrested a suspicious looking individual on a charge of being a rogue and vagabond. This action was objected to by a number of loafers, who followed the officer ordering the man's release, and inciting others to attack the policeman, but not one raised a hand. The policeman, however, turned round and arrested the leader of the uproarious gang. The others then melted away. The two prisoners were charged at the Police Court, on Thursday, and remanded.

THERE are extensive deposits of soft coal five to ten miles south-west of I-chow-fu, which have been worked for many years by crude native methods. It is now proposed by the local officials to form a company for the purpose of exploiting these coal measures by the use of Western methods or partial Western methods, as at Yi Hsien. This project is particularly interesting because there is also iron ore not far from the coal fields, referred to. A rail-road from I-chow-fu to the new port of Hai-Chew is mentioned as a possible means of delivering the output of the proposed mines. However, even as it is, we have water transportation for small boats to the Grand Canal from about the middle of July to the middle of September, depending on the extent of the rainy season.

THE bearer of chair No. 200 this morning (23rd inst.) summoned Miss Stella Brumfield, of No. 49, Hollywood Road, for alleged assault, and the latter issued a cross-summons against the chair coolie for disorderly behaviour. Mr. Sergeant, of the firm of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grier, appeared for Miss Brumfield. The coolie's story was that on the evening of the 17th inst., at about 10.30 p.m., the defendant and another lady took chairs near the King Edward Hotel. On reaching her house he asked her for payment, but she went into her house without paying him. He waited outside, but did not bang the door and ring. Shortly after, she returned carrying in her hand a glassful of water which he emptied over him and afterwards struck him on the wrist with the tumbler, cutting his arm. Inspector Smith spoke of having seen the wound on the arm; it was a clean cut. Miss Brumfield then gave evidence. She said that she and another lady took chairs in front of the King Edward, and a gentleman, who was with them, had paid the chair coolies in advance. She could not say which coolie received the money. On arriving at her house, the coolie created a disturbance, asking for payment. After she had entered, the complainant shook the door violently. She asked her "boy" for a tumbler of water, and when the door was opened the coolie struck at her head the glass fell against the door and was broken. Then a large number of coolies collected and she went upstairs to write for the police. Mr. Sergeant then asked for an adjournment until to-morrow at 11.30 a.m. to enable him to call a witness.

Miss Stella Brumfield, of 49, Hollywood Road, paid \$5 compensation this morning (24th inst.) to the chair coolie, whom she was charged with assaulting yesterday. Accused, it was alleged, refused to pay the coolie his fare, and when he demanded it threw two glasses of water over him, and struck him with the glass, cutting his wrist. Miss Brumfield admitted throwing the water, adding that the coolie had provoked her. The magistrate (Mr. Kemp) said he thought that a technical assault had been committed, and that the matter of compensation should be settled out of Court. Five dollars was the compensation agreed upon, and the summons